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United Nations

Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2012

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Letter of transmittal

30 June 2012

Mr. Secretary-General,

I have the honour to transmit herewith to the General Assembly the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in accordance with General Assembly resolution 66/91 of 9 December 2011. The report covers the work of the Special Committee during 2012.

(*Signed*) Diego **Morejón**
Chair of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard
to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting
of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

Chapter I

Establishment, organization and activities of the Special Committee

A. Establishment of the Special Committee

1. The establishment and history of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples is covered in detail in paragraphs 2 to 8 of the note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (see A/AC.109/2012/L.1).

2. At its sixty-sixth session, after considering the report of the Special Committee (A/66/23), the General Assembly adopted its resolution 66/91, in which it approved the report of the Special Committee covering its work during 2011, and requested the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)) and to carry out the actions approved by the Assembly regarding the Second and Third International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that had not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence. In addition, the Assembly reaffirmed that the United Nations visiting missions to the Territories were an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, as well as the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants, and called upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to facilitate United Nations visiting missions to the Territories. The Assembly also called upon all the administering Powers to cooperate fully in the work of the Special Committee and to participate formally in the Committee's future sessions.

3. In addition to resolution 66/91, the General Assembly adopted 10 other resolutions and a decision relating to specific items considered by the Special Committee in 2011, which are listed below.

1. Resolutions and decision concerning specific Territories

Resolutions

Territory	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	58/316[a]	1 July 2004
Western Sahara	66/86	9 December 2011
New Caledonia	66/87	9 December 2011
Tokelau	66/88	9 December 2011
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands	66/89 A and B	9 December 2011

[a] In accordance with paragraph 4 (b) of the annex to resolution 58/316 of 1 July 2004, the item should remain on the agenda for consideration upon notification by a Member State.

Decision

Territory	*Decision number*	*Date of adoption*
Gibraltar	66/522	9 December 2011

2. Resolutions concerning other items

Title	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations	66/82	9 December 2011
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	66/83	9 December 2011
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	66/84	9 December 2011
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	66/85	9 December 2011
Dissemination of information on decolonization	66/90	9 December 2011

3. Other resolutions and decisions relevant to the work of the Special Committee

4. Other resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session that were relevant to the work of and were taken into consideration by the Special Committee are listed in a note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/2012/L.1).

4. Membership of the Special Committee

5. As at 1 January 2012, the Special Committee was composed of the following 29 members: Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, China, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Mali, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, the Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, the Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

B. Opening of the meetings of the Special Committee in 2012 and election of officers

6. The Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs opened the meeting on 23 February 2012, and read out a statement on behalf of the Secretary-General.

7. At the same meeting, the Special Committee unanimously elected the following officers:

Chair:
Diego Morejón (Ecuador)

Vice-Chairs:
Pedro Núñez Mosquera (Cuba)
Shekou M. Touray (Sierra Leone)

Rapporteur:
Bashar Ja'afari (Syrian Arab Republic)

C. Organization of work

8. At its 1st meeting, on 23 February 2012, the Special Committee adopted suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair, and decided to maintain its Bureau as its only subsidiary body. The Committee also decided to adopt the suggestions of the Chair relating to the allocation of items and the procedure for their consideration (see A/AC.109/2012/L.2). At the same meeting, the Chair made a statement relating to the organization of work (see A/AC.109/2012/SR.1).

9. Algeria, Argentina, Azerbaijan and Spain participated in the 2012 session of the Special Committee as observers.

D. Meetings of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies

10. In keeping with its resolve to continue taking all possible measures to rationalize the organization of its work, and with the full and close cooperation of its entire membership, the Special Committee and its subsidiary body were again able to keep to a minimum the number of their formal meetings, as indicated below, by holding, whenever possible, informal meetings and extensive consultations through officers of the Special Committee.

1. Special Committee

11. The Special Committee held 11 meetings at Headquarters during 2012, as follows:

(a) First part of the session: 1st meeting, 23 February; and 2nd meeting, 19 April;

(b) Second part of the session: 3rd meeting, 11 June; 4th meeting, 14 June; 5th meeting, 15 June; 6th and 7th meetings, 18 June; 8th meeting, 19 June; 9th meeting, 20 June; 10th meeting, 21 June; and 11th meeting, 22 June.

12. During the session, the Special Committee considered in plenary meetings the following questions and adopted decisions thereon, as indicated below:

Question	*Meeting*	*Decision*
Dissemination of information on decolonization	3rd	Chap. XII, draft resolution VII
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations	3rd	Chap. XII, draft resolution I
Question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories	3rd	Chap. IV, para. 82
Gibraltar	5th	Chap. VIII, para. 104
Special Committee decision of 20 June 2011 concerning Puerto Rico	7th	Chap. I, para. 22
Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands	9th	Chap. XII, draft resolution VI
Question of Tokelau	11th	Chap. XII, draft resolution V
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	4th	Chap. XI, para. 141
Question of New Caledonia	11th	Chap. XII, draft resolution IV
Western Sahara	5th	Chap. VIII, para. 113
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	8th	Chap. XII, draft resolution III
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	8th	Chap. XII, draft resolution II
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	8th	Chap. XII, draft resolution VIII

2. Subsidiary bodies

13. At its 1st meeting, on 23 February, the Special Committee adopted suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair (see A/AC.109/2012/L.2), and decided to maintain its Bureau as its only subsidiary body. During the period covered by the present report, the Bureau held two meetings.

14. At its 11th meeting, on 22 June, following a statement by the Chair, the Special Committee adopted a report concerning organizational matters relating to its work (A/AC.109/2012/L.14), without a vote.

E. Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable

15. At its 1st meeting, on 23 February, the Special Committee adopted suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair (see A/AC.109/2012/L.2) and decided to take up as appropriate the question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable.

16. At its 9th meeting, on 20 June, the Special Committee decided to continue its consideration of the question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its sixty-seventh session (see A/AC.109/2012/L.14, para. 9).

Special Committee decision of 20 June 2011 concerning Puerto Rico

17. At its 1st meeting, on 23 February, the Special Committee adopted suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair (see A/AC.109/2012/L.2) and decided to take up as appropriate the item entitled "Special Committee decision of 20 June 2011 concerning Puerto Rico" and to consider it at plenary meetings.

18. At the 3rd and 6th meetings, on 11 and 18 June, the Chair drew attention to a number of communications received from organizations expressing a wish to be heard on Puerto Rico by the Special Committee. The Special Committee agreed to accede to those requests, and it heard the representatives of the organizations concerned at its 6th and 7th meetings (see A/AC.109/2012/SR.6 and 7), as follows:

(a) *6th meeting*: Osvaldo Toledo Martinez, Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico; José M. López Sierra, Compañeros Unidos para la Descolonización de Puerto Rico; Arturo González Hernández, Comité de Puerto Rico en Naciones Unidas; Héctor Pesquera Sevillana, Movimiento Independentista Nacional Hostosiano; Edgardo Román Espada, Coalición Puertorriqueña contra la Pena de Muerte; Jesus Mangual Cruz, La Fundación Andres Figueroa Cordero; Benjamin Ramos Rosado, ProLibertad Freedom Campaign; Ismael Guadalupe Ortiz, Movimiento de Afirmación Viequense; Aleida Centeno, American Association of Jurists; Jan Susler, People's Law Office; Manuel Rivera, Puertorriqueñnos Unidos en Accion (PUA); Luis A. Delgado Rodríguez, Alianza pro Libre Asociación Soberana; Mary Anne Grady Flores, Ithaca Catholic Workers, Vieques Support Group; Jerry (Gerardo Lugo) Segarra, Partido Nacionalista de Puerto Rico; Juan Dalmau, Puerto Rican Independence Party; Carlos Alberto Torres, Futuro sin Falla; Francisco Velgara, Frente Socialista de Puerto Rico; Daniel Fein, Socialist Workers Party; and Eduardo Villanueva Muñoz, Comité de Derechos Humanos de Puerto Rico.

(b) *5th meeting*: Enrique Vazquez Quintana, Movimiento Unión Soberanista de Puerto Rico; Carlos M. Hernández-López, Puerto Rico House of Representatives; Nilda Luz Rexach, National Advancement for Puerto Rican Culture Inc.; José Adames, Literary Center Anacaona; Richard López Rodríguez, Frente Patriotico Arecibeño; Juan Camacho, Comité Toabajeños contra El Gasoducto; Iris Zavala-

Martinez, Centro Mujer y Nueva Familia; Paulette D'Auteuil, National Jericho Movement; and Antonio Martorell, Taller de la Playa.

19. At the 6th meeting, on 18 June, the representative of Cuba, also on behalf of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Ecuador, Nicaragua and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.7.

20. At its 7th meeting, also on 18 June, following statements by the representatives of Egypt (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries), Nicaragua, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Syrian Arab Republic and Ecuador, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.7 without a vote.

21. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba made a statement (see A/AC.109/2012/SR.7).

22. Draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.7 read as follows:

Special Committee decision of 20 June 2011 concerning Puerto Rico

The Special Committee,

Bearing in mind the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, as well as the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico,

Considering that the period 2011-2020 was proclaimed by the General Assembly, in its resolution 65/119 of 10 December 2010, as the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

Bearing in mind the thirty resolutions and decisions adopted by the Special Committee on the question of Puerto Rico, contained in the reports of the Special Committee to the General Assembly, in particular those adopted without a vote in recent years,

Recalling that 25 July 2012 marks the one hundred and fourteenth anniversary of the intervention in Puerto Rico by the United States of America,

Noting with concern that despite the diverse initiatives taken by the political representatives of Puerto Rico and the United States in recent years, the process of decolonization of Puerto Rico, in compliance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee on Puerto Rico, has not yet been set in motion,

Stressing the urgent need for the United States to lay the groundwork for the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico,

Noting that the inter-agency Task Force on Puerto Rico's Status designated by the President of the United States, which submitted its third report on 16 March 2011, reaffirmed that Puerto Rico is a territory subject to United States congressional authority,

Also noting the Special Declaration on Puerto Rico adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our Americas in

Caracas on 4 and 5 February 2012, which expressed their strong support for the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and full independence, recalled that Puerto Rico is a Latin American and Caribbean nation with its own unmistakable identity and history, whose rights to sovereignty have been violated by the imposed colonial rule for more than a century, stressed that the cause of the independence of Puerto Rico concerns the region of Latin America and the Caribbean and their forums for dialogue and political cooperation — particularly the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, and demanded the release of political prisoners convicted for fighting for the independence and self-determination of Puerto Rico, including comrade Oscar Lopez, who has been imprisoned under inhumane conditions for thirty-one years,

Further noting the "Panama Proclamation", adopted by the Latin American and Caribbean Congress in solidarity with Puerto Rico's Independence, which was held in Panama on 18 and 19 November 2006 and was attended by thirty-three political parties from twenty-two countries of the region, the conclusions of which were reaffirmed in Mexico City on 29 March 2008 at the meeting of the Standing Committee for Puerto Rican Independence, and the resolution of the Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean of Socialist International, adopted at its meeting in Bucaramanga, Colombia, on 30 and 31 May 2011, deciding to support the call of the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization for the General Assembly to examine the colonial case of Puerto Rico, and for the release of Oscar López and other Puerto Rican patriots in jail in the United States,

Noting the debate in Puerto Rico on the search for a procedure that would make it possible to launch the process of decolonization of Puerto Rico, and aware of the principle that any initiative for the solution of the political status of Puerto Rico should originate from the people of Puerto Rico,

Aware that Vieques Island, Puerto Rico, was used for over sixty years by the United States Marines to carry out military exercises, with negative consequences for the health of the population, the environment and the economic and social development of that Puerto Rican municipality,

Noting the consensus existing among the people and the Government of Puerto Rico on the necessity of ensuring the clean-up, decontamination and return to the people of Puerto Rico of all the territory previously used for military exercises and installations, and of using them for the social and economic development of Puerto Rico,

Also noting the complaints made by the inhabitants of Vieques Island regarding the continued bombing and the use of open burning for clean-up, which exacerbate the existing health problems and pollution and endanger civilian lives,

Further noting the consensus among the people of Puerto Rico in favour of the release of the Puerto Rican political prisoners, some of whom have been serving sentences in prisons in the United States of America for more than thirty years for cases related to the struggle for Puerto Rico's independence,

Noting the concern of the people of Puerto Rico regarding violent actions, including repression and intimidation, against Puerto Rican independence fighters, including those that have recently come to light through documents declassified by federal agencies of the United States,

Also noting that in the final document of the Fifteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries,[1] held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 11 to 16 July 2009, and at the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement held in Sharm el-Sheikh from 7 to 10 May 2012, and other meetings of the Movement, the right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence is reaffirmed on the basis of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), the Government of the United States is urged to assume its responsibility to expedite a process that will allow the Puerto Rican people to fully exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence and to return the territory and occupied installations on Vieques Island and at the Roosevelt Roads Naval Station to the Puerto Rican people, who constitute a Latin American and Caribbean nation, and the General Assembly is urged to actively consider the question of Puerto Rico in all its aspects,

Having heard statements and testimonies representative of various viewpoints among the people of Puerto Rico and their social institutions,

Having considered the report of the Rapporteur of the Special Committee on the implementation of the resolutions concerning Puerto Rico,[2]

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the applicability of the fundamental principles of that resolution to the question of Puerto Rico;

2. *Reiterates* that the Puerto Rican people constitute a Latin American and Caribbean nation that has its own unequivocal national identity;

3. *Calls again upon* the Government of the United States of America to assume its responsibility to expedite a process that will allow the Puerto Rican people fully to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence, in accordance and in full compliance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico;

4. *Notes* the broad support of eminent persons, Governments and political forces in Latin America and the Caribbean for the independence of Puerto Rico;

5. *Again notes* the debate in Puerto Rico on the implementation of a mechanism that would ensure the full participation of representatives of all viewpoints prevailing in Puerto Rico, including a constitutional assembly on status with a basis in the decolonization alternatives recognized in international law, and aware of the principle that any initiative for the solution of the political status of Puerto Rico should originate from the people of Puerto Rico;

6. *Expresses serious concern* regarding actions carried out against Puerto Rican independence fighters, and encourages the investigation of those actions with the necessary rigour and with the cooperation of the relevant authorities;

7. *Requests* the General Assembly to consider the question of Puerto Rico comprehensively in all its aspects;

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[1] A/63/965-S/2009/514, annex.

[2] A/AC.109/2012/L.13.

8. *Urges* the Government of the United States, in line with the need to guarantee the Puerto Rican people their legitimate right to self-determination and the protection of their human rights, to complete the return of occupied land and installations on Vieques Island and in Ceiba to the people of Puerto Rico, respect fundamental human rights, such as the right to health and economic development, and expedite and cover the costs of the process of cleaning up and decontaminating the impact areas previously used in military exercises through means that do not continue to aggravate the serious consequences of its military activity for the health of the inhabitants of Vieques Island and the environment;

9. *Reiterates its request* to the President of the United States of America to release the following Puerto Rican political prisoners serving sentences in United States prisons for cases relating to the struggle for the independence of Puerto Rico: Oscar López Rivera, who has been serving a sentence for over thirty years, Avelino González Claudio and Norberto González Claudio, who was arrested most recently;

10. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report prepared by the Rapporteur of the Special Committee, in compliance with its resolution of 20 June 2011;

11. *Requests* the Rapporteur to report to the Special Committee in 2012 on the implementation of the present resolution;

12. *Decides* to keep the question of Puerto Rico under continuous review.

F. Consideration of other matters

23. At its 1st meeting, on 23 February, the Special Committee adopted the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair (see A/AC.109/2012/L.2) and decided to consider in plenary meetings the questions of compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other resolutions on decolonization; holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters; the pattern of conferences; and other questions, mentioned in paragraphs 24 to 37 below.

1. Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other resolutions on decolonization

24. The Special Committee, in its consideration of specific items, took into account the decision mentioned in paragraph 23 above.

2. Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters

25. Having regard to its programme of work for 2012, the Special Committee, at its 10th meeting, on 21 June, considered the question of holding meetings away from Headquarters, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI) and paragraph 3 (9) of resolution 2621 (XXV), by which the Assembly authorized the Special Committee to meet elsewhere than at United Nations Headquarters whenever and wherever such meetings might be required for the effective discharge of its functions. At the same meeting, the Special Committee decided that it would consider accepting such invitations as might be received in 2013 and that, when particulars of such meetings had become known, it would request the Secretary-General to seek the necessary budgetary provision in accordance with established procedures.

3. Pattern of conferences

26. Recalling measures that it had taken previously, the Special Committee decided to continue to exercise its initiatives in the effective utilization of the limited conference resources and the further reduction of its documentation requirements, by circulating communications and information material, as far as possible, in the form of informal notes and aides-memoires in the original language of submission, thus curtailing documentation requirements and accruing considerable savings for the Organization. A list of the documents issued by the Special Committee in 2012 is contained in annex I to the present report.

27. At its 10th meeting, on 21 June, the Special Committee considered the item and noted that, during the year, it had closely followed the guidelines set forth in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the pattern of conferences, in particular resolution 66/233. By effectively organizing its programme of work and holding extensive consultations, the Committee had striven to keep the number of its formal meetings to a minimum. The Special Committee decided, taking into account its probable workload for 2013, to consider holding its meetings in accordance with the following schedule: (a) plenary: February/March (as required); June/July (up to 15 meetings: 6-8 meetings a week); (b) Bureau (February-July: 10 meetings). It was understood that the programme would not preclude the holding of any ad hoc meetings that might be warranted and that the Special Committee might, early in 2013, review the schedule of meetings on the basis of any new developments. The Special Committee decided, subject to any directives given by the General Assembly, to strive, while fulfilling its mandate, to keep its meetings to a minimum.

4. Control and limitation of documentation

28. At its 10th meeting, on 21 June, the Special Committee noted that, during the year, it had taken further measures to control and limit its documentation, in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 34/50, 39/68, 51/211 B, 65/245 and 66/233. The Special Committee, consistent with the goal of limiting documentation, decided to continue to streamline its report to the Assembly.

5. Cooperation and participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee

29. In compliance with the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the delegations of France and New Zealand, as administering Powers, continued to participate, in accordance with established procedure, in the related work of the Special Committee (see chaps. VIII.B and X).

30. The delegations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America did not formally participate in the work of the Special Committee.[3]

31. In a related context, the Special Committee, at its 3rd meeting, on 11 June, adopted a resolution on the question of sending visiting missions to Territories. It called upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the

[3] For the explanation of their non-participation, see documents A/47/86 and A/41/23, chap. I, paras. 76 and 77.

United Nations by facilitating United Nations visiting missions to the Territories under their administration, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization (see para. 82 below).

6. Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee

32. At its 10th meeting, on 21 June, the Special Committee considered the question of the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in its work and decided to recommend that the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Committee at Headquarters should continue to be facilitated through the reimbursement by the United Nations of the expenses relating to their participation under the terms of the guidelines amended by the Committee and approved by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

7. Representation at seminars, meetings and conferences of intergovernmental and other organizations

33. At its 10th meeting, on 21 June, the Special Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the Committee continue to be represented at seminars, meetings and conferences organized by United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of decolonization. In keeping with its decision of 23 February 2012 (see A/AC.109/2012/SR.1), the Committee would authorize its Chair to hold consultations, as appropriate, concerning its participation in such meetings, as well as the level of representation, when accepting invitations. In accordance with established practice and on the basis of the principle of rotation, the Chair would hold consultations with the Bureau members, who in turn would consult with the members of the Committee from their respective regional groups. The Chair would also hold consultations with a member of the Committee whose regional group was not represented in the Bureau. The Special Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly make appropriate budgetary provisions to cover such activities in 2013.

8. Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories

34. The question of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories was considered by the Special Committee at its 10th meeting, on 21 June, in connection with its consideration of the report of the Pacific regional seminar (see chap. II and annex II).

9. Report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly

35. At its 1st meeting, on 23 February, the Special Committee adopted suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair (see A/AC.109/2012/L.2) and, in accordance with paragraph 31 of General Assembly decision 34/401 on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the Assembly and based on practice initiated by the Committee in 2005, the Committee decided to continue to formulate its decisions in General Assembly form and to submit them to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session.

36. At its 10th meeting, on 21 June, the Special Committee, on the proposal of the Chair, authorized the Rapporteur to submit directly to the Assembly the report of the Committee in accordance with established practice and procedure.

10. Other questions

37. At its 1st meeting, on 23 February, the Special Committee adopted suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair (see A/AC.109/2012/L.2) and decided, in its examination of specific Territories, to take into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions and a decision listed in the note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (see para. 3 above). Those resolutions and that decision were taken into account during the consideration of specific Territories and other items in plenary meetings.

G. Relations with United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

38. In connection with the Special Committee's consideration of the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, and in accordance with paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 66/84 relating to the item, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Chair of the Special Committee held consultations to consider appropriate measures for the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly (see E/2012/47). An account of the Special Committee's consideration of the question is set out in chapter VI of the present report.

39. During the year, the Special Committee adopted decisions relating to the extension of assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories. Those decisions are reflected in recommendations of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XII).

40. The Special Committee took into account the relevant resolutions and decisions of the Human Rights Council at its twelfth session and continued to follow the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

41. Bearing in mind its previous decisions to maintain contact on a regular basis with the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the African Union, the Caribbean Community and the Pacific Islands Forum in order to assist it in the effective discharge of its mandate, the Special Committee, as in previous years, closely followed the work of those intergovernmental organizations.

42. Having regard to the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 66/90 and 66/91, the Special Committee continued to follow closely the activities of non-governmental organizations having a special interest in the field of decolonization (see A/AC.109/2012/18 and para. 18 above). The related decisions of the Special Committee are listed in chapter XII of the present report.

43. The Special Committee continued to monitor related developments in the Territories, having regard to the relevant provisions of article 15 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex).

H. Review of work

44. The reform processes initiated by the Special Committee in 1991 continued to be actively pursued in 2012. The Special Committee's recommendation to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on 12 Territories was consolidated into two resolutions (see chap. XII, draft resolutions V and VI).

45. The Special Committee also considered and submitted recommendations on information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations, the question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories, the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, and economic and other activities that affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

46. As noted in chapter II of the present report, the Special Committee held a Pacific regional seminar in Quito from 30 May to 1 June 2012, at which participants considered the goals and expected accomplishments of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

47. On the question of the publicity to be given to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, the Special Committee adopted a resolution on the dissemination of information on decolonization, which it recommended to the General Assembly for action at its sixty-seventh session (see chap. XII, draft resolution VII).

48. The Special Committee also continued its review of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable. With regard to its decision of 20 June 2011 concerning Puerto Rico, the Special Committee heard a number of representatives of organizations concerned and adopted a resolution on the matter, which is set out in paragraph 22 above.

I. Future work

49. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly since 1961, and subject to further directives from the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, the Special Committee intends to continue during 2013 to pursue its efforts in bringing a speedy end to colonialism, in accordance with Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the revised plan of action to be developed within the context of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

50. In order to discharge its responsibilities, the Special Committee will keep the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under continuous review, examining the impact of developments concerning each Territory on their political advancement, reviewing the compliance by Member States, particularly the administering Powers, with the relevant decisions and resolutions of the United Nations, seeking the input of representatives of the Territories, non-governmental organizations from the Territories and experts, inviting them to attend its meetings and regional seminars, and visiting the Territories to gather first-hand information.

51. In 2013, the Special Committee intends to continue and intensify its dialogue and cooperation with the administering Powers for the purpose of furthering the

cause of decolonization through the development of case-by-case programmes of work for the decolonization of specific Territories in agreement with the administering Powers and with the participation of representatives of the Territories at every stage of discussion. The members of the Special Committee are particularly encouraged by the excellent cooperation between France and New Caledonia and between New Zealand and Tokelau at every stage of the negotiations.

52. The Special Committee will continue to conduct regional seminars for the purpose of assessing, receiving and disseminating information on the situation in the Territories in order to facilitate the implementation of its mandate. In this connection, the Special Committee will hold a seminar in the Caribbean region in 2013.

53. The Special Committee will continue to seek the cooperation of the administering Powers in facilitating United Nations visiting and special missions to the Territories under their administration. The Special Committee continues to attach the utmost importance to visiting missions as a means of collecting adequate and first-hand information regarding conditions in the Territories and the wishes and aspirations of the peoples concerning their future status. Moreover, visiting missions are important in the context of action plans for decolonization and observing acts of self-determination. The Special Committee will explore the possibility of combining visiting missions to certain Territories with regional seminars in order to optimize its available resources.

54. The Special Committee will continue to use opportunities such as the regional seminars and visiting and special missions to disseminate information on its activities and on the Territories in an effort to mobilize world public opinion to support and assist the peoples of the Territories in bringing about a speedy end to colonialism, and to develop, together with the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, programmes aimed at Territories that have requested information about self-determination options.

55. The Special Committee will continue to pay attention to the specific problems of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Special Committee is aware that, in addition to general problems facing developing countries, those Territories also suffer handicaps arising from the interplay of such factors as size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, fragility of ecosystems, constraints in transport and communications, great distances from market centres, a highly limited internal market, lack of natural resources, and vulnerability to drug trafficking, money-laundering and other illegal activities. The Special Committee will continue to recommend measures to facilitate the sustained and balanced growth of the fragile economies of those Territories and increased assistance in the development of all the sectors of their economies.

56. It is the intention of the Special Committee to continue to follow closely the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international and regional institutions associated with the United Nations. The Special Committee will continue the practice of holding consultations between its Chair and the President of the Economic and Social Council with the objectives of facilitating the effective implementation of the decisions of the various United Nations bodies and fostering cooperation between the specialized agencies and the regional organizations in providing assistance for the Non-Self-Governing Territories in a given region.

57. The Special Committee will also strive to follow up on the General Assembly's request that the participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of relevant meetings and conferences of the agencies and organizations be facilitated so that the Territories can benefit from the related activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system.

58. The Special Committee intends to take into account economic and other activities that affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to continue its cooperation with interested States to ensure that the interests of the peoples of those Territories are protected.

59. In the light of the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions concerning the pattern of conferences, and taking into consideration its experience in previous years as well as its probable workload for 2013, the Special Committee has approved a tentative programme of meetings for 2013, which it commends to the Assembly for approval.

60. The Special Committee suggests that when the General Assembly, at its sixty-seventh session, examines the question of the implementation of the Declaration, it may wish to take into account the various recommendations of the Special Committee that are reflected in the relevant chapters of the present report and, in particular, to endorse the proposals outlined in the present section in order to enable the Special Committee to carry out the tasks it envisages for 2013. The Special Committee recommends that the Assembly renew its appeal to the administering Powers to take all steps necessary for the implementation of the Declaration and the relevant United Nations resolutions, in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples of the Territories concerned. In that connection, the Special Committee recommends that the Assembly request those administering Powers that have not yet done so to become involved with the work of the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and, in particular, to participate actively in the work relating to the Territories under their respective administrations. The Special Committee also recommends that the Assembly continue to invite the administering Powers to allow representatives of the Territories concerned to participate in the discussions in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) and the Special Committee on the items relating to their respective Territories. Furthermore, the Assembly might wish to renew its appeal to all States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to comply with the various requests addressed to them by the Assembly in the relevant resolutions.

61. The Special Committee recommends that, in approving the programme of work outlined above, the General Assembly make adequate provision to cover the activities that the Special Committee envisages for 2013. In that regard, the Special Committee notes that the programme budget for the biennium 2013-2014 includes resources to provide for the programme of work of the Special Committee for 2013, based on the level of activities approved for 2012, without prejudice to the decisions to be taken by the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session. On that basis, the Special Committee understands that, should any additional provisions be required over and above those included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2013-2014, proposals for supplementary requirements would be made to the General Assembly for its approval. Finally, the Special Committee expresses the hope that the Secretary-General will continue to provide it with all the facilities and personnel necessary for the discharge of its mandate, taking into account the various tasks

assigned to it by the Assembly as well as those arising from decisions taken by it during the current year.

J. Conclusion of the 2012 session

62. At the 11th meeting, on 22 June, the Acting Chair made a statement on the occasion of the closing of the 2012 session of the Special Committee (see A/AC.109/2012/SR.11).

Chapter II

Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

63. At its 1st meeting, on 23 February 2012, the Special Committee, by approving the recommendations of its Chair on its organization of work for the year (see A/AC.109/2012/L.2), decided to allocate to its plenary meetings, as appropriate, the question of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

64. The Special Committee considered the questions of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and the Pacific regional seminar to consider goals and expected accomplishments of the Third Decade at its 2nd, 8th and 10th meetings, on 19 April and on 19 and 21 June.

65. The Special Committee had before it guidelines and rules of procedure for the Pacific regional seminar (A/AC.109/2012/17).

66. At its 2nd meeting, on 19 April, following a statement by the Chair, the Special Committee approved the composition of the official delegation of the Special Committee to the Pacific regional seminar (see A/AC.109/2012/SR.2).

67. At its 8th meeting, on 19 June, the Special Committee adopted, without a vote, draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.9, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples", submitted by the Chair.

68. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.9 appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XII, draft resolution VIII).

69. At the 10th meeting, on 21 June, the Chair of the Special Committee drew attention to the draft report of the Pacific regional seminar, which had been circulated to members of the Special Committee as an informal document.

70. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft report of the Pacific regional seminar and decided to annex it to its report to the General Assembly (see annex II).

Chapter III
Dissemination of information on decolonization

71. The Special Committee considered the question of dissemination of information on decolonization at its 3rd meeting, on 11 June 2012.

72. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including in particular resolution 66/90 on the dissemination of information on decolonization and resolution 66/91 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

73. The Special Committee held consultations with representatives of the Department of Public Information and of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat at its 3rd meeting (see A/AC.109/2012/SR.3).

74. Also at the 3rd meeting, the Chair of the Special Committee drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the dissemination of information on decolonization (A/AC.109/2012/18) and a draft resolution on the item submitted by the Chair (A/AC.109/2012/L.4).

75. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.4 without a vote.

76. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.4 appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XII, draft resolution VII).

Chapter IV
Question of sending visiting missions to Territories

77. The Special Committee considered the question of sending visiting missions to Territories at its 3rd meeting, on 11 June 2012.

78. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including in particular the pertinent provisions of resolution 66/91 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and resolutions 66/89 A and B and 66/88 relating to specific Territories.

79. In addition, the Special Committee considered the specific Territories referred to it, taking into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 66/90 and 66/91, as well as previous decisions of the Special Committee relating to the question.

80. At the 3rd meeting, on 11 June, the Chair drew attention to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2012/L.5).

81. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.5 without a vote.

82. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.5 read as follows:

Question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of sending visiting missions to Territories,

Recalling the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee requesting the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the United Nations by receiving visiting missions in the Territories under their administration,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of assessing the situation in those Territories and of ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the peoples thereof regarding their future status,

Conscious that United Nations visiting missions enhance the capacity of the United Nations to assist the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories in attaining the objectives set forth in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, in other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and in the plan of action for the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[4]

Recalling with satisfaction the dispatch of two United Nations missions to observe the referendums in Tokelau, in February 2006 and October 2007, at the invitation of New Zealand as the administering Power,[5]

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[4] See resolution 65/119.

[5] See A/AC.109/2006/20 and A/AC.109/2007/19.

Recalling with satisfaction also the cooperation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power, in facilitating the United Nations special mission to the Turks and Caicos Islands in April 2006[6] at the request of the territorial Government,

Recalling the importance of the previously expressed desire of the territorial Governments of American Samoa and Anguilla for a visiting mission by the Special Committee,

1. *Stresses* the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories in order to facilitate the full, speedy and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with respect to those Territories, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization and the plan of action for the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;[4]

2. *Calls upon* the administering Powers that have not yet done so to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by facilitating United Nations visiting missions to the Territories under their administration, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

3. *Requests* the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the Special Committee in exploring the possibility of undertaking visiting or special missions in furtherance of the decolonization mandate of the General Assembly;

4. *Requests* its Chair to continue consultations with the administering Powers concerned and to report to the Special Committee on the results of those consultations.

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[6] See A/AC.109/2007/5.

Chapter V

Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

83. The Special Committee considered the question of economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at its 8th meeting, on 19 June 2012.

84. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including in particular resolution 66/83 on economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and resolution 66/91 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In addition, the Special Committee took into consideration the relevant documents of other intergovernmental bodies concerned, to which reference is made in the last preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.11.

85. At the 8th meeting, the Chair drew attention to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2012/L.11).

86. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.11 without a vote.

87. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.11 appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XII, draft resolution II).

Chapter VI

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

88. The Special Committee considered the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations at its 8th meeting, on 19 June 2012.

89. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 66/84 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, in paragraph 24 of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session. The Special Committee also took into account all other resolutions adopted by the Assembly on the subject, including resolution 65/119, by which the Assembly declared the period 2011-2020 the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

90. The Special Committee also took into account the relevant documents of other intergovernmental bodies concerned, to which reference is made in the fifth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.10.

91. At the 8th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the item (A/67/64) and to the information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration (see E/2012/47), as well as to the draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2012/L.10).

92. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.10, without a vote.

93. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.10 appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XII, draft resolution III).

Chapter VII

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

94. The Special Committee considered the question of information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations at its 3rd meeting, on 11 June 2012.

95. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the resolutions of the General Assembly concerning information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter and related questions, in particular resolution 1970 (XVIII), by which the Assembly decided, inter alia, to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and to transfer certain of its functions to the Special Committee, and resolution 66/82, in paragraph 4 of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures. Furthermore, the Special Committee took into account the relevant provisions of Assembly resolution 66/91 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and resolution 65/119 on the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

96. At the 3rd meeting, the Chair drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the item (A/67/71), which reflected the dates of transmission of information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations by the administering Powers in regard to Territories under their respective administration, as well as to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2012/L.3).

97. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.3, without a vote.

98. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.3 appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XII, draft resolution I).

Chapter VIII
Gibraltar, New Caledonia and Western Sahara

99. In its consideration of the questions of Gibraltar, New Caledonia and Western Sahara, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly resolutions 66/86 and 66/87 and decision 66/522, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

A. Gibraltar

100. The Special Committee considered the question of Gibraltar at its 5th meeting, on 15 June 2012.

101. For its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2012/14).

102. At the 5th meeting, the representative of Spain made a statement (see A/AC.109/2012/SR.5).

103. At the same meeting, in accordance with a decision taken at the outset of the meeting, a statement was made by Fabian Picardo, Leader of the Opposition in Gibraltar (see A/AC.109/2012/SR.5).

104. On the proposal of the Chair, the Special Committee decided to continue its consideration of the question at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its sixty-seventh session and, in order to facilitate consideration of the question by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), to transmit the relevant documentation to the Assembly.

B. New Caledonia

105. The Special Committee considered the question of New Caledonia at its 11th meeting, on 22 June 2012.

106. At the 11th meeting, the Chair drew attention to a working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the item (A/AC.109/2012/15) and to a draft resolution on the item, submitted by Fiji and Papua New Guinea (A/AC.109/2012/L.12).

107. At the same meeting, the representative of Fiji, also on behalf of Papua New Guinea, introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.12.

108. Also at its 11th meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.12 without a vote.

109. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.12 appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XII, draft resolution IV).

C. Western Sahara

110. The Special Committee considered the question of Western Sahara at its 5th meeting, on 15 June 2012.

111. For its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2012/16).

112. At its 5th meeting, in accordance with a decision taken at the outset of the meeting, the Special Committee granted a request for hearing to Ahmed Boukhari of the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente Polisario), who made a statement (see A/AC.109/2012/SR.5).

113. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chair, the Special Committee decided, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its sixty-seventh session, and in order to facilitate consideration of the question by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), to transmit the relevant documentation to the Assembly.

Chapter IX

American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands

114. The Special Committee considered the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands at its 9th and 11th meetings, on 20 and 22 June 2012.

115. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 66/91 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and other relevant resolutions and decisions on the Territories adopted by the Assembly.

116. The delegations of the United Kingdom and the United States, the administering Powers concerned, did not participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the Territories under their administration.

117. For its consideration of the items, the Special Committee had before it the working papers prepared by the Secretariat on the Territories (A/AC.109/2012/2-11 and 13).

118. At the 9th meeting, on 20 June, in accordance with the decision taken at the 3rd meeting, a statement was made by Josephine Gumbs-Connor on the question of Anguilla (see A/AC.109/2012/SR.9).

119. Also at the 9th meeting, in accordance with the decision taken at the 3rd meeting, a statement was made by Julian Aguon on the question of Guam (see A/AC.109/2012/SR.9).

120. At the same meeting, in accordance with the decision taken at the 3rd meeting, a statement was made by Alpha Gibbs on the question of the Turks and Caicos Islands (see A/AC.109/2012/SR.9).

121. At the 9th meeting, the Chair made a statement introducing a consolidated draft resolution (A/AC.109/2012/L.8) relating to the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands (see A/AC.109/2012/SR.9).

122. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.8 without a vote.

123. At the 11th meeting, in accordance with the decision taken at the 3rd meeting, a statement was made by Benjamin Roberts on the question of the Turks and Caicos Islands (see A/AC.109/2012/SR.11).

124. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.8 appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XII, draft resolution VI).

Chapter X
Tokelau

125. The Special Committee considered the question of Tokelau at its 11th meeting, on 22 June 2012.

126. For its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (see A/AC.109/2012/1).

127. At the 11th meeting, with the consent of the Special Committee, the Ulu-o-Tokelau and the Administrator of Tokelau made statements (see A/AC.109/2012/SR.11).

128. At the same meeting, the representative of Fiji, also on behalf of Papua New Guinea, introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.15.

129. Also at the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.15 without a vote.

130. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.15 appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XII, draft resolution V).

Chapter XI
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

131. The Special Committee considered the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) at its 4th and 5th meetings, on 14 and 15 June 2012.

132. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account paragraph 4 (b) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

133. For its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2012/12).

134. At the 4th meeting, the Chair informed the Special Committee that the delegations of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay had requested to participate in the Committee's consideration of the item. The Committee decided to accede to the requests.

135. At the same meeting, in accordance with the decision taken at the 3rd meeting, statements were made by Roger Edwards and Michael Summers of the Legislative Assembly of the Falkland Islands, Alejandro Betts and Marcelo Luis Vernet (see A/AC.109/2012/SR.4).

136. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Chile, also on behalf of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), introduced a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2012/L.6).

137. Also at the 4th meeting, the President of Argentina made a statement (see A/AC.109/2012/SR.4).

138. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Cuba, the Russian Federation, Brazil, China, Nicaragua, the Syrian Arab Republic, Sierra Leone and Papua New Guinea (see A/AC.109/2012/SR.4).

139. Also at the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.6 without a vote.

140. At the 5th meeting, on 15 June, statements were made by the representatives of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Indonesia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Uruguay, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Peru and Colombia (see A/AC.109/2012/SR.5).

141. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.6 read as follows:

Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Aware that the maintenance of colonial situations is incompatible with the United Nations ideal of universal peace,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 2065 (XX) of 16 December 1965, 3160 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973, 31/49 of 1 December 1976, 37/9 of 4 November 1982, 38/12 of 16 November 1983, 39/6 of 1 November 1984, 40/21 of 27 November 1985, 41/40 of 25 November 1986, 42/19 of 17 November 1987 and 43/25 of 17 November 1988, Special Committee resolutions A/AC.109/756 of 1 September 1983, A/AC.109/793 of 21 August 1984, A/AC.109/842 of 9 August 1985, A/AC.109/885 of 14 August 1986, A/AC.109/930 of 14 August 1987, A/AC.109/972 of 11 August 1988, A/AC.109/1008 of 15 August 1989, A/AC.109/1050 of 14 August 1990, A/AC.109/1087 of 14 August 1991, A/AC.109/1132 of 29 July 1992, A/AC.109/1169 of 14 July 1993, A/AC.109/2003 of 12 July 1994, A/AC.109/2033 of 13 July 1995, A/AC.109/2062 of 22 July 1996, A/AC.109/2096 of 16 June 1997, A/AC.109/2122 of 6 July 1998, A/AC.109/1999/23 of 1 July 1999, A/AC.109/2000/23 of 11 July 2000, A/AC.109/2001/25 of 29 June 2001, A/AC.109/2002/25 of 19 June 2002, A/AC.109/2003/24 of 16 June 2003, the resolution adopted on 18 June 2004, the resolution adopted on 15 June 2005, the resolution adopted on 15 June 2006, the resolution adopted on 21 June 2007, the resolution adopted on 12 June 2008, the resolution adopted on 18 June 2009, the resolution adopted on 24 June 2010 and the resolution adopted on 21 June 2011, and Security Council resolutions 502 (1982) of 3 April 1982 and 505 (1982) of 26 May 1982,

Distressed that, notwithstanding the time that has elapsed since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX), this prolonged dispute has not yet been settled,

Aware of the interest of the international community in the resumption by the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of their negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Expressing its preoccupation over the fact that the good level of relations between Argentina and the United Kingdom has not yet led to negotiations on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Considering that this situation should facilitate the resumption of the negotiations in order to find a peaceful solution to the dispute over sovereignty,

Reaffirming the principles of the Charter of the United Nations on the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations and the peaceful settlement of international disputes,

Calling attention to the importance of the Secretary-General continuing his efforts to give full effect to the mission entrusted to him by the General Assembly in its resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Reaffirming the need for the parties to take due account of the interests of the population of the islands in accordance with the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

1. *Reiterates* that the way to put an end to the special and particular colonial situation in the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) is the peaceful and negotiated settlement of the dispute over sovereignty between the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

2. *Takes note* of the views expressed by the President of the Argentine Republic on the occasion of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly;

3. *Regrets* that, in spite of the widespread international support for a negotiation between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom that includes all aspects of the future of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), the implementation of the General Assembly resolutions on this question has not yet started;

4. *Requests* the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom to consolidate the current process of dialogue and cooperation through the resumption of negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25;

5. *Reiterates* its firm support for the mission of good offices of the Secretary-General in order to assist the parties in complying with the request made by the General Assembly in its resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas);

6. *Decides* to keep under review the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) subject to the directives that the General Assembly has issued and may issue in that regard.

Chapter XII
Recommendations

142. The Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, in which it requested the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to study the information transmitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and to take such information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Recalling also its resolution 66/82 of 9 December 2011, in which it requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII),

Stressing the importance of timely transmission by the administering Powers of adequate information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter, in particular in relation to the preparation by the Secretariat of the working papers on the Territories concerned,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General,[7]

1. *Reaffirms* that, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

2. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned, in accordance with their Charter obligations, to transmit or continue to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General for information purposes, subject to such limitation as security and constitutional considerations may require, statistical and other information of a technical nature relating to economic, social and educational conditions in the Territories for which they are respectively responsible, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned, including the constitution, legislative act or executive order providing for the government of the Territory and the constitutional relationship of the Territory to the administering Power, within a maximum period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in those Territories;

[7] A/67/71.

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that adequate information is drawn from all available published sources in connection with the preparation of the working papers relating to the Territories concerned;

4. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under General Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures.

Draft resolution II
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories",

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2012 relating to the item,[8]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, as well as all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including, in particular, resolutions 46/181 of 19 December 1991, 55/146 of 8 December 2000 and 65/119 of 10 December 2010,

Reaffirming the solemn obligation of the administering Powers under the Charter of the United Nations to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Territories under their administration and to protect the human and natural resources of those Territories against abuses,

Reaffirming also that any economic or other activity that has a negative impact on the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and on the exercise of their right to self-determination in conformity with the Charter and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) is contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter,

Reaffirming further that the natural resources are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations,

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location, size and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the need to promote the stability, diversification and strengthening of the economy of each Territory,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the small Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation,

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[8] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/67/23), chap. V.

Conscious also that foreign economic investment, when undertaken in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes, could make a valid contribution to the socioeconomic development of the Territories and also to the exercise of their right to self-determination,

Concerned about any activities aimed at exploiting the natural and human resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to the detriment of the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as well as their right to the enjoyment of their natural resources and their right to dispose of those resources in their best interest;

2. *Affirms* the value of foreign economic investment undertaken in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes in order to make a valid contribution to the socioeconomic development of the Territories, especially during times of economic and financial crisis;

3. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and reaffirms the legitimate rights of their peoples over their natural resources;

4. *Reaffirms its concern* about any activities aimed at the exploitation of the natural resources that are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations, in the Caribbean, the Pacific and other regions, and of their human resources, to the detriment of their interests, and in such a way as to deprive them of their right to dispose of those resources;

5. *Reaffirms* the need to avoid any economic and other activities that adversely affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

6. *Calls once again upon* all Governments that have not yet done so to take, in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, legislative, administrative or other measures in respect of their nationals and the bodies corporate under their jurisdiction that own and operate enterprises in the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are detrimental to the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories, in order to put an end to such enterprises;

7. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to ensure that the exploitation of the marine and other natural resources in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration is not in violation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and does not adversely affect the interests of the peoples of those Territories;

8. *Invites* all Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to take all possible measures to ensure that the permanent sovereignty of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories over their natural resources is fully respected and safeguarded in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

9. *Urges* the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the administering Powers to take all steps necessary to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Powers concerned to ensure that no discriminatory working conditions prevail in the Territories under their administration and to promote in each Territory a fair system of wages applicable to all the inhabitants without any discrimination;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue, through all means at his disposal, to inform world public opinion of any activity that affects the exercise of the right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV);

12. *Appeals* to trade unions and non-governmental organizations, as well as individuals, to continue their efforts to promote the economic well-being of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and also appeals to the media to disseminate information about the developments in this regard;

13. *Decides* to follow the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories so as to ensure that all economic activities in those Territories are aimed at strengthening and diversifying their economies in the interest of their peoples, including the indigenous populations, and at promoting the economic and financial viability of those Territories;

14. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine this question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session.

Draft resolution III
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations",

Having also considered the report of the Secretary-General[9] and the report of the Economic and Social Council[10] on the item,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2012 relating to the item,[11]

Recalling its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and the resolutions of the Special Committee, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions, including in particular Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/40 of 28 July 2011,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in resolution 1514 (XV),

Noting that the large majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Welcoming also the participation in the capacity of observers of those Non-Self-Governing Territories that are associate members of regional commissions in the world conferences in the economic and social spheres, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories,

Noting that only some specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system have been involved in providing assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Stressing that, because the development options of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development and that those Territories will be constrained in meeting the challenges without the continuing cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing also the importance of securing the resources necessary for funding expanded programmes of assistance for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

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[9] A/67/64.

[10] E/2012/47.

[11] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/67/23), chap. VI.

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in this regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of programmes of assistance to the peoples concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to decolonization,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea-level rise, and recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 66/84 of 9 December 2011 on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[9]

2. *Recommends* that all States intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in which they are members to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

3. *Reaffirms* that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

4. *Also reaffirms* that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all the specialized agencies and other

organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

6. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to intensify their engagement with the work of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples as an important element for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), including possible participation at the regional seminars on decolonization, upon the invitation of the Special Committee;

7. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories;

8. *Urges* those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet provided assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories to do so as soon as possible;

9. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

10. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system concerned to provide information on:

(a) Environmental problems facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) The impact of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and volcanic eruptions, and other environmental problems, such as beach and coastal erosion and droughts, on those Territories;

(c) Ways and means to assist the Territories to fight drug trafficking, money-laundering and other illegal and criminal activities;

(d) Illegal exploitation of the marine and other natural resources of the Territories and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of the peoples of the Territories;

11. *Recommends* that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit the proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

12. *Also recommends* that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review at the regular meetings of their governing bodies the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

13. *Recalls* the adoption by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of its resolution 574 (XXVII) of 16 May 1998,[12] calling for the necessary mechanisms for its associate members, including Non-Self-Governing Territories, to participate in the special sessions of the General Assembly, subject to the rules of procedure of the Assembly, to review and assess the implementation of the plans of action of those United Nations world conferences in which the Territories originally participated in the capacity of observer, and in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies;

14. *Requests* the Chair of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to maintain close contact on these matters with the President of the Economic and Social Council;

15. *Recalls* the publication by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee, of an information leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, which was updated for the United Nations website on decolonization, and requests its continued updating and wide dissemination;

16. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining close liaison among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and in providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

17. *Encourages* the Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies, inter alia, with the assistance of the relevant specialized agencies;

18. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to facilitate, when appropriate, the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories, so that the Territories may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

19. *Recommends* that all Governments intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to assist the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in working out appropriate measures for implementing the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and to prepare for submission to the relevant bodies, with the assistance of those agencies and organizations, a report on the action taken in implementation of

[12] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 21* (E/1998/41), sect. III.G.

the relevant resolutions, including the present resolution, since the circulation of his previous report;

21. *Commends* the Economic and Social Council for its debate and resolution on this question, and requests it to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

22. *Requests* the specialized agencies to report periodically to the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the governing bodies of the appropriate specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations so that those bodies may take the measures necessary to implement it, and also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

24. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session.

Draft resolution IV
Question of New Caledonia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of New Caledonia,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2012 relating to New Caledonia,[13]

Reaffirming the right of peoples to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

Noting the importance of the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities, in cooperation with all sectors of the population, to promote political, economic and social development in the Territory, including measures in the area of environmental protection and action with respect to drug abuse and trafficking, in order to provide a framework for its peaceful progress to self-determination,

Noting also, in this context, the importance of equitable economic and social development, as well as continued dialogue among the parties involved in New Caledonia in the preparation of the act of self-determination of New Caledonia,

[13] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/67/23), chap. VIII.

Noting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples on the situation of Kanak people in New Caledonia, submitted to the Human Rights Council at its eighteenth session, held from 12 to 30 September and on 21 October 2011,[14] following his visit to the Territory in February of the same year,

Noting with satisfaction the intensification of contacts between New Caledonia and neighbouring countries of the South Pacific region,

Recalling, in this regard, the conclusions of the eighteenth Melanesian Spearhead Group Leaders Summit, held in Suva on 31 March 2011, including the recommendations for the annual monitoring and assessment of the Nouméa Accord,

Welcoming the conclusion of the letter of exchange between the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat and the secretariat of the Melanesian Spearhead Group on the sharing of information on New Caledonia,

1. *Invites* all the parties involved to continue promoting a framework for the peaceful progress of the Territory towards an act of self-determination in which all options are open and which would safeguard the rights of all sectors of the population, according to the letter and the spirit of the Nouméa Accord, which is based on the principle that it is for the populations of New Caledonia to choose how to control their destiny;

2. *Welcomes* the significant developments that have taken place in New Caledonia since the signing of the Nouméa Accord on 5 May 1998 by the representatives of New Caledonia and the Government of France;[15]

3. *Urges* all the parties involved, in the interest of all the people of New Caledonia, to maintain, in the framework of the Nouméa Accord, their dialogue in a spirit of harmony, and in this context welcomes the unanimous agreement, reached in Paris on 8 December 2008, on the transfer of powers to New Caledonia in 2009;

4. *Notes* that during the meeting in July 2011 of the follow-up committee overseeing the progress of the Nouméa Accord, held in the presence of the signatories, the members of Parliament and the Presidents of the Provinces and the Customary Senate, the parties acknowledged the progress achieved in the transfer of competencies, particularly those related to civil and commercial law, civil status regulations and the civil security sector, which will take effect in 2013 and 2014;

5. *Also notes* that, consequent to the decision taken by the follow-up committee in 2010, the steering committee on the institutional future of New Caledonia has been established and mandated to prepare the basic issues to be decided by referendum, namely, the transfer of sovereign powers, access to full international status and the organization of citizenship into nationality;

6. *Welcomes*, in that regard, the five agreements signed in October 2011 by the French authorities and the Government of New Caledonia to organize the transfer of secondary education, with effect on 1 January 2012;

7. *Recalls* the relevant provisions of the Nouméa Accord aimed at taking more broadly into account the Kanak identity in the political and social organization of New Caledonia, and notes that, according to the Nouméa Accord, the new anthem

[14] A/HRC/18/35/Add.6, annex.

[15] A/AC.109/2114, annex.

is used together with the French hymn and that the follow-up committee in 2010 recommended that the French flag and the Kanak flag should fly together in New Caledonia;

8. *Acknowledges* those provisions of the Nouméa Accord relating to control of immigration and protection of local employment, and notes that unemployment remains high among Kanaks and that recruitment of foreign mine workers continues;

9. *Notes* the concerns expressed by a group of indigenous people in New Caledonia regarding their underrepresentation in the Territory's governmental and social structures;

10. *Also notes* the concerns expressed by representatives of indigenous people regarding incessant migratory flows and the impact of mining on the environment;

11. *Notes* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples,[14] made in the light of relevant international standards, to assist with ongoing efforts to advance the rights of the Kanak people in the context of the implementation of the Nouméa Accord and the United Nations-supported decolonization process;

12. *Takes note* of the relevant provisions of the Nouméa Accord to the effect that New Caledonia may become a member or associate member of certain international organizations, such as international organizations in the Pacific region, the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Labour Organization, according to their regulations;

13. *Notes* the agreement between the signatories to the Nouméa Accord that the progress made in the emancipation process shall be brought to the attention of the United Nations;

14. *Recalls* the fact that the administering Power invited to New Caledonia, at the time the new institutions were established, a mission of information which comprised representatives of countries of the Pacific region;

15. *Notes* the continuing strengthening of ties between New Caledonia and both the European Union and the European Development Fund in such areas as economic and trade cooperation, the environment, climate change and financial services;

16. *Welcomes* the actions taken by the administering Power to continue to transmit to the Secretary-General information as required under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations;

17. *Welcomes* all measures taken to strengthen and diversify the New Caledonian economy in all fields, and encourages further such measures in accordance with the spirit of the Matignon and Nouméa Accords;

18. *Also welcomes* the importance attached by the parties to the Matignon and Nouméa Accords to greater progress in housing, employment, training, education and health care in New Caledonia;

19. *Notes* the financial assistance rendered by the Government of France to the Territory in areas such as health, education, payment of public-service salaries and funding development schemes;

20. *Notes* the visit to New Caledonia from 14 to 18 November 2011 of the Melanesian Spearhead Group technical mission composed of senior officials, in pursuance of the recommendations of the Melanesian Spearhead Group Leaders Summit of 31 March 2011 for the annual monitoring and assessment of the Nouméa Accord, and the second Melanesian Spearhead Group High-level/Ministerial Mission, conducted from 2 to 9 July 2012;

21. *Welcomes* the continuous participation of the Kanaks through the Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste at all the Melanesian Spearhead Group Leaders Summit meetings since it became a full member of the Melanesian Spearhead Group in 1989;

22. *Acknowledges* the contribution of the Jean-Marie Tjibaou Cultural Centre to the protection of the indigenous Kanak culture of New Caledonia;

23. *Notes* the positive initiatives aimed at protecting the natural environment of New Caledonia, including the "Zonéco" operation designed to map and evaluate marine resources within the economic zone of New Caledonia;

24. *Welcomes* the cooperation among Australia, France and New Zealand in terms of surveillance of fishing zones, in accordance with the wishes expressed by France during successive France-Oceania Summits;

25. *Acknowledges* the close links between New Caledonia and the peoples of the South Pacific and the positive actions being taken by the French and territorial authorities to facilitate the further development of those links, including the convention signed in January 2012 relating to the hosting of New Caledonian delegates in the French diplomatic and consular missions in the Pacific region, and the easing of short-stay visa procedures for countries of the South Pacific;

26. *Welcomes* the participation of New Caledonia at the forty-second meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders, held in Auckland, New Zealand, on 7 and 8 September 2011, as an associate member, and notes the Territory's continuing desire to accede to full membership in the Forum;

27. *Recalls* the continuing high-level visits to New Caledonia by delegations from countries of the Pacific region and high-level visits by delegations from New Caledonia to countries members of the Pacific Islands Forum;

28. *Welcomes* the cooperative attitude of other States and Territories in the region towards New Caledonia, its economic and political aspirations and its increasing participation in regional and international affairs;

29. *Welcomes* the organization by New Caledonia of the 2011 Pacific Games from 27 August to 10 September 2011, in which twenty-two countries of the Pacific region took part, thereby fostering regional integration;

30. *Welcomes* the hosting of the fourth Melanesian Arts Festival, organized by the Melanesian Spearhead Group from 12 to 24 September 2010, by the Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste, the Kanak communities and New Caledonia;

31. *Decides* to keep under continuous review the process unfolding in New Caledonia as a result of the signing of the Nouméa Accord;

32. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue the examination of the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of New Caledonia and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session.

Draft resolution V
Question of Tokelau

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Tokelau,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2012 relating to Tokelau,[16]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular General Assembly resolution 66/88 of 9 December 2011,

Noting with appreciation the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand as the administering Power with regard to the work of the Special Committee relating to Tokelau and its readiness to permit access by United Nations visiting missions to the Territory,

Noting also with appreciation the collaborative contribution to the development of Tokelau by New Zealand and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Noting that, as a small island Territory, Tokelau exemplifies the situation of most remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories and that, as a case study pointing to successful cooperation for decolonization, Tokelau has wider significance for the United Nations as it seeks to complete its work in decolonization,

Noting also Tokelau's associate member status with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

Recalling that New Zealand and Tokelau signed in November 2003 a document entitled "Joint statement of the principles of partnership", which sets out the rights and responsibilities of the two partners,

Bearing in mind the decision of the General Fono at its meeting in November 2003, following extensive consultations undertaken in all three villages, to explore formally with New Zealand the option of self-government in free association and its decision in August 2005 to hold in February 2006 a referendum on self-determination on the basis of a draft constitution for Tokelau and a draft treaty of free association with New Zealand, and its subsequent decision to hold a further referendum in October 2007, and that the two referendums did not produce the two-

[16] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/67/23), chap. X.

thirds majority of the valid votes cast required by the General Fono to change Tokelau's status from that of a Non-Self-Governing Territory under the administration of New Zealand,

1. *Acknowledges* the decision of the General Fono in 2008 that consideration of any future act of self-determination by Tokelau will be deferred and that New Zealand and Tokelau will devote renewed effort and attention to ensuring that essential services and infrastructure on the atolls of Tokelau are enhanced and strengthened, thereby ensuring an enhanced quality of life for the people of Tokelau;

2. *Welcomes* the progress made towards the devolution of power to the three taupulega (village councils), since 2004;

3. *Notes* that Tokelau and New Zealand remain firmly committed to the ongoing development of Tokelau for the long-term benefit of the people of Tokelau, with particular emphasis on the further development of facilities on each atoll that meet their current requirements;

4. *Acknowledges* Tokelau's adoption of its National Strategic Plan for 2010-2015 and that the joint commitment for development between Tokelau and New Zealand 2011-2015 will focus on a viable transportation arrangement, infrastructure development, human resources capacity and strengthening governance;

5. *Further acknowledges* the ongoing and consistent commitment of New Zealand to meeting the social and economic requirements of the people of Tokelau, as well as the support and cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme;

6. *Acknowledges* Tokelau's need for continued support from the international community;

7. *Recalls with satisfaction* the establishment and operation of the Tokelau International Trust Fund to support the ongoing needs of Tokelau, and calls upon Member States and international and regional agencies to contribute to the Fund and thereby lend practical support to Tokelau in overcoming the problems of smallness, isolation and lack of resources;

8. *Welcomes* the cooperative attitude of the other States and territories in the region towards Tokelau, and their support for its economic and political aspirations and its increasing participation in regional and international affairs;

9. *Calls upon* the administering Power and United Nations agencies to continue to provide assistance to Tokelau as it further develops;

10. *Welcomes* the actions taken by the administering Power to transmit to the Secretary-General under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations information regarding the political, economic and social situation of Tokelau;

11. *Also welcomes* the commitment of both Tokelau and New Zealand to continue to work together in the interests of Tokelau and its people;

12. *Welcomes* Tokelau's commitment, with the assistance of the administering Power, to the reduction in the use of fossil fuels, with the aim of meeting its electricity needs entirely through renewable energy by the end of 2012;

13. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial

Countries and Peoples to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Tokelau and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session.

Draft resolution VI
Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands

A
General

The General Assembly,

Having considered the questions of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, hereinafter referred to as "the Territories",

Having examined the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2012,[17]

Recalling all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to those Territories, including, in particular, the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the individual Territories covered by the present resolutions,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territories are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1541 (XV), containing the principles that should guide Member States in determining whether or not an obligation exists to transmit the information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations,

Expressing concern that fifty-two years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[18] there still remain a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Conscious of the importance of continuing effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by 2020 and the plans of action for the Second and Third International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism,[19]

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[17] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/67/23), chap. IX.

[18] Resolution 1514 (XV).

[19] See A/56/61, annex, and resolution 65/119.

Recognizing that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the peoples of the Territories require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

Noting the stated position of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the stated position of the Government of the United States of America on the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration,

Noting also the constitutional developments in some Non-Self-Governing Territories affecting the internal structure of governance about which the Special Committee has received information,

Convinced that the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

Convinced also that any negotiations to determine the status of a Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of that Territory, under the auspices of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis, and that the views of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained,

Noting that a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories have expressed concern at the procedure followed by some administering Powers, contrary to the wishes of the Territories themselves, of amending or enacting legislation for application to the Territories, either through orders in council, in order to apply to the Territories the international treaty obligations of the administering Power, or through the unilateral application of laws and regulations,

Aware of the importance of the international financial services and tourism sectors for the economies of some of the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Noting the continued cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the local and regional levels, including participation in the work of regional organizations,

Mindful that United Nations visiting and special missions provide an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, that some Territories have not received a United Nations visiting mission for a long time and that no visiting missions have been sent to some of the Territories, and considering the possibility of sending further visiting missions to the Territories at an appropriate time, in consultation with the relevant administering Powers and in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations on decolonization,

Mindful also that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the peoples of the Territories and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the relevant administering Powers and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territories, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories,

Acknowledging the regular transmission by the administering Powers to the Secretary-General of information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter,

Aware of the importance both to the Territories and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of the Territories in the work of the Committee,

Recognizing the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the peoples of the Territories in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination,

Mindful, in this connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate, and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

Noting the stated positions of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories before the Special Committee and at its regional seminars,

Mindful that the Pacific regional seminar was held in Quito from 30 May to 1 June 2012,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation, and, in this connection, bearing in mind the applicability to the Territories of the programmes of action or outcome documents of all United Nations world conferences and special sessions of the General Assembly in the economic and social spheres,

Noting with appreciation the contribution to the development of some Territories by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the Pacific Islands Forum and the agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific,

Noting the statement by the representative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Kingstown from 31 May to 2 June 2011, that all six Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories are active associate members of the Commission,

Aware that the Human Rights Committee, as part of its mandate under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[20] reviews the status of the self-determination process, including in small island Territories under examination by the Special Committee,

Recalling the ongoing efforts of the Special Committee in carrying out a critical review of its work with the aim of making appropriate and constructive

[20] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

recommendations and decisions to attain its objectives in accordance with its mandate,

Recognizing that the annual working papers prepared by the Secretariat on developments in each of the small Territories,[21] as well as the substantive documentation and information furnished by experts, scholars, non-governmental organizations and other sources, have provided important inputs to update the present resolutions,

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General on the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[22]

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that, in the process of decolonization, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

3. *Further reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the peoples of the Territories themselves to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection reiterates its long-standing call for the administering Powers, in cooperation with the territorial Governments and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territories in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples being apprised of the views and wishes of the peoples of the Territories and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between the Non-Self-Governing Territories and their respective administering Powers;

5. *Requests* the administering Powers to continue to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter;

6. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Special Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in the Territories, and encourages the administering Powers to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territories;

7. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the

[21] A/AC.109/2012/2-11 and 13.

[22] A/65/330 and Add.1.

cultural identity of the Territories, and, as a priority, to mitigate the effects of the current global financial crisis where possible, in consultation with the territorial Governments concerned, towards the strengthening and diversification of their respective economies;

8. *Requests* the Territories and the administering Powers to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territories against any degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to continue to monitor environmental conditions in the Territories and to provide assistance to those Territories, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

9. *Welcomes* the participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional activities, including the work of regional organizations;

10. *Stresses* the importance of implementing the plans of action for the Second and Third International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism,[19] in particular by expediting the application of the work programme for the decolonization of each Non-Self-Governing Territory, on a case-by-case basis, as well as by ensuring that periodic analyses are undertaken of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration in each Territory, and that the working papers prepared by the Secretariat on each Territory should fully reflect developments in those Territories;

11. *Urges* Member States to contribute to the efforts of the United Nations to usher in a world free of colonialism within the context of the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism, and calls upon them to continue to give their full support to the Special Committee in its endeavours towards that noble goal;

12. *Stresses* the importance of the various constitutional exercises in the respective Territories administered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, and led by the territorial Governments, designed to address internal constitutional structures within the present territorial arrangements, and decides to follow closely the developments concerning the future political status of those Territories;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report to the General Assembly on a regular basis on the implementation of decolonization resolutions adopted since the declaration of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;

14. *Reiterates its request* that the Human Rights Committee collaborate with the Special Committee, within the framework of its mandate on the right to self-determination as contained in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[20] with the aim of exchanging information, given that the Human Rights Committee is mandated to review the situation, including political and constitutional developments, in many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are within the purview of the Special Committee;

15. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to collaborate with the Economic and Social Council and its relevant subsidiary intergovernmental bodies, within the framework of their respective mandates, with the aim of exchanging information on developments in those Non-Self-Governing Territories which are reviewed by those bodies;

16. *Also requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

B
Individual territories

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

I
American Samoa

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on American Samoa[23] and other relevant information,

Noting the statement made by the representative of the Governor of American Samoa at the Pacific regional seminar, held in Quito from 30 May to 1 June 2012, that the Territory's position that it should be removed from the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories continued to hold, that it was time to make political and economic progress while respecting the concerns of the administering Power and the United Nations, and that there was a need for a more structured approach to determine the will of the people with a detailed workplan on how best to gauge the people's will on political status,

Aware that under United States law the Secretary of the Interior has administrative jurisdiction over American Samoa,[24]

Recalling the position of the administering Power and the statements made by representatives of American Samoa at regional seminars, including at the 2011 Caribbean regional seminar, inviting the Special Committee to send a visiting mission to the Territory,

Aware of the work of the Future Political Status Study Commission, completed in 2006, the release of its report, with recommendations, in January 2007, and the creation of the American Samoa Constitutional Review Committee in the Territory, as well as the holding in June 2010 of American Samoa's fourth Constitutional Convention,

Noting, in that regard, the statement made by the representative of the Governor of American Samoa at the 2012 Pacific regional seminar and previous policy papers presented to the Special Committee stating that, against a backdrop of a decades-long popular preference for integration with the United States of America, the Territory wished to move forward on political status, local autonomy and self-governance issues, as well as remarks made by the Governor and the United States Congressman representing American Samoa, in 2012, on the issue of reviewing the

[23] A/AC.109/2012/11.

[24] United States Congress, 1929 (48 U.S.C. Sec. 1661, 45 Stat. 1253), and Secretary's Order 2657, Department of the Interior, United States of America, 1951, as amended.

territory's relationship with the United States and looking at options to become more independent, including a compact of free association agreement,

Acknowledging the indication by the territorial Government, including at the 2012 Pacific regional seminar, that the effects of certain federal laws on the Territory's economy give serious cause for concern,

Aware that American Samoa continues to be the only United States Territory to receive financial assistance from the administering Power for the operations of the territorial Government,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the territorial Government with respect to moving forward on political status, local autonomy and self-governance issues with a view to making political and economic progress;

2. *Expresses once again its appreciation* for the invitation extended in 2011 to the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the Governor of American Samoa to send a visiting mission to the Territory, calls upon the administering Power to facilitate such a mission if the territorial Government so desires, and requests the Chair of the Special Committee to take all the steps necessary to that end;

3. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning a public awareness programme, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in that regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

4. *Calls upon* the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in the diversification and sustainability of the economy of the Territory and to address employment and cost-of-living issues;

II
Anguilla

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Anguilla[25] and other relevant information,

Recalling the holding of the 2003 Caribbean regional seminar in Anguilla, hosted by the territorial Government and made possible by the administering Power, the first time that the seminar had been held in a Non-Self-Governing Territory,

Recalling also the statement of the representative of Anguilla at the Pacific regional seminar, held in Quito from 30 May to 1 June 2012, that the people of the Territory are concerned that they are being denied the full range of decolonization options, while the territorial Government seeks a comprehensive overhaul of the current Constitution, in particular a serious reduction in the powers of the Governor under a drafting exercise that began in 2011,

Aware of the follow-up meeting, held after the Pacific regional seminar, between the Chair of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial

[25] A/AC.109/2012/2.

Countries and Peoples and the Chief Minister of Anguilla, who reiterated the urgent need for a visiting mission,

Noting the internal constitutional review process resumed by the territorial Government in 2006, the work of the Constitutional and Electoral Reform Commission, which prepared its report in August 2006, the holding of public and other consultative meetings in 2007 on proposed constitutional amendments to be presented to the administering Power, and the decisions taken in 2008 and 2011 to set up a drafting team to prepare a new constitution and present it for public consultation in the Territory,

Aware of certain difficulties and tensions in the relations between the territorial Government and the administering Power regarding budgetary and economic matters,

Noting the participation of the Territory as a member in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council and an associate member in the Caribbean Community, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Aware of the willingness expressed by the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Caribbean Community to assist in the resolution of difficulties being experienced by the territorial Government in respect of its relations with the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,

1. *Welcomes* the preparations made for a new constitution and urges that constitutional discussions with the administering Power, including public consultations, be concluded as soon as possible;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory in its current efforts with regard to advancing the internal constitutional review exercise, if requested;

3. *Notes* the expression of grave concern by the Caribbean Community at the tension between the administering Power and the territorial Government and the deterioration in the Territory's governance arrangements;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the previously expressed desire of the territorial Government for a visiting mission by the Special Committee, calls upon the administering Power to facilitate such a mission, if the territorial Government so desires, and requests the Chair of the Special Committee to take all the necessary steps to that end;

5. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public consultative outreach efforts consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in this regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

6. *Calls upon* the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in strengthening its commitments in the economic domain, including budgetary matters, with regional support as needed and appropriate;

7. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

III
Bermuda

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Bermuda[26] and other relevant information,

Recalling the statement of the representative of Bermuda at the Pacific regional seminar, held in Quito from 30 May to 1 June 2012, that the Territory's circumstances with respect to the issue of independence are unique and its dream of independence persists, albeit temporarily deferred, as the pursuit of independence is not a current top priority for the people of Bermuda,

Conscious of the different viewpoints of the political parties on the future status of the Territory, and noting the results of successive surveys by local media, according to which a majority of respondents did not wish to sever ties with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the administering Power, and a minority was in favour of independence,

Recalling the dispatch of the United Nations special mission to Bermuda in 2005, at the request of the territorial Government and with the concurrence of the administering Power, which provided information to the people of the Territory on the role of the United Nations in the process of self-determination, on the legitimate political status options as clearly defined in General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and on the experiences of other small States that have achieved a full measure of self-government,

1. *Stresses* the importance of the 2005 report of the Bermuda Independence Commission, which provides a thorough examination of the facts surrounding independence, and continues to regret that the plans for public meetings and the presentation of a Green Paper to the House of Assembly followed by a White Paper outlining the policy proposals for an independent Bermuda have so far not materialized;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public educational outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in this regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

IV
British Virgin Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the British Virgin Islands[27] and other relevant information,

Noting the statement of the representative of the British Virgin Islands at the Pacific regional seminar, held in Quito from 30 May to 1 June 2012, that the interim position of the Territory was to maintain its current relationship with the administering Power, built on mutual respect and a mature partnership, as the Territory continues to grow and generations of British Virgin Islanders attain higher levels of education,

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[26] A/AC.109/2012/4.

[27] A/AC.109/2012/6.

Recalling the view expressed in the statement made by the representative of the British Virgin Islands at the 2011 Caribbean regional seminar that there was scope for further constitutional review with respect to the practical and effective implementation of the provisions of the 2007 Constitution in the Territory,

Aware of the negative impact of the global economic slowdown on the growth of the Territory's financial and tourism services sectors, which was less severe in 2011,

Cognizant of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory, and of the Territory's membership in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council,

1. *Recalls* the Constitution of the British Virgin Islands, which took effect in 2007, and stresses the importance of continued discussions on constitutional matters, to accord greater responsibility to the territorial Government for the effective implementation of the Constitution and increased levels of education relating to constitutional matters;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in that regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Territory to strengthen its financial services and tourism sectors;

4. *Also welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

5. *Further welcomes* the holding, for the first time at the level of heads of territorial Government, on 12 May 2011, of the meeting of the Inter-Virgin Islands Council between the Territory and the United States Virgin Islands;

V
Cayman Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the Cayman Islands[28] and other relevant information,

Recalling the statement made by the representative of the territorial Government at the Pacific regional seminar held in Nouméa from 18 to 20 May 2010,

Aware of the work, in accordance with the 2009 Constitution, of the new Constitutional Commission, which serves as an advisory body on constitutional matters,

Conscious of the work of the Cayman Islands Review Committee established by the Premier in 2011 to comment on the relationship between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Cayman Islands,

Acknowledging that, in spite of the global economic downturn and unemployment issues, the Territory's financial services and tourism industries reportedly rebounded in 2011 and the Government's openness to partnership would facilitate economic activity in the private sector,

[28] A/AC.109/2012/7.

Cognizant of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory, and of the Territory's membership in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council,

1. *Welcomes* the desire, reflected in the Cayman Islands Review Committee report of 2011, to enhance the relationship between the Territory and the administering Power in mutually beneficial ways, with a view to creating more local autonomy, and stresses the importance of the work of the Constitutional Commission, including on human rights education;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public awareness outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in this regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Welcomes* the Territory's active participation in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

4. *Also welcomes* the efforts made by the territorial Government to implement financial sector management policies, medical and sports tourism initiatives and unemployment alleviation programmes in various economic sectors, including agriculture and the private sector;

VI
Guam

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Guam[29] and other relevant information,

Noting the statement made by the representative of the Governor of Guam at the Pacific regional seminar, held in Quito from 30 May to 1 June 2012, that the Territory's colonial status has resulted in a situation where the Chamorro people's survival as a people in its native land is threatened, and that the work of the Guam Commission on Decolonization in 2011 was centred on setting a date for the plebiscite on Chamorro self-determination and identifying the resources to fund an education campaign to inform the community of the political status issue,

Cognizant of the efforts made by the Guam Commission on Decolonization to populate the decolonization registry, as required by public law, and to enhance the ability to expediently register those who have not yet been registered,

Aware that, under United States law, the relations between the territorial Government and the federal Government in all matters that are not the programme responsibility of another federal department or agency are under the general administrative supervision of the Secretary of the Interior,[30]

Recalling that, in a referendum held in 1987, the registered and eligible voters of Guam endorsed a draft Guam Commonwealth Act that would establish a new framework for relations between the Territory and the administering Power, providing for a greater measure of internal self-government for Guam and recognition of the right of the Chamorro people of Guam to self-determination for the Territory,

[29] A/AC.109/2012/13.

[30] United States Congress, Organic Act of Guam, 1950, as amended.

Recalling also the requests by the elected representatives and non-governmental organizations of the Territory, including at the 2012 Pacific regional seminar, that Guam not be removed from the list of the Non-Self-Governing Territories with which the Special Committee is concerned, pending the self-determination of the Chamorro people and taking into account their legitimate rights and interests,

Aware that negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the draft Guam Commonwealth Act ended in 1997 and that Guam has subsequently established a non-binding plebiscite process for a self-determination vote by the eligible Chamorro voters,

Cognizant of the importance of the administering Power continuing to implement its programme of transferring surplus federal land to the Government of Guam,

Noting that the people of the Territory have called for reform in the programme of the administering Power with respect to the thorough, unconditional and expeditious transfer of land property to the people of Guam,

Aware of the deep concerns expressed by civil society and others, including at meetings of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) of the General Assembly and at the regional seminars, regarding the potential social, cultural, economic and environmental impacts of the planned transfer of additional military personnel of the administering Power to the Territory,

Conscious that immigration into Guam has resulted in the indigenous Chamorros becoming a minority in their homeland,

1. *Welcomes* the convening of the Guam Commission on Decolonization in 2011 and its work on a self-determination vote;

2. *Calls once again upon* the administering Power to take into consideration the expressed will of the Chamorro people as supported by Guam voters in the referendum of 1987 and as subsequently provided for in Guam law regarding Chamorro self-determination efforts, encourages the administering Power and the territorial Government to enter into negotiations on the matter, and stresses the need for continued close monitoring of the overall situation in the Territory;

3. *Requests* the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue to transfer land to the original landowners of the Territory, to continue to recognize and to respect the political rights and the cultural and ethnic identity of the Chamorro people of Guam and to take all measures necessary to address the concerns of the territorial Government with regard to the question of immigration;

4. *Also requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating public outreach efforts, including through the funding of the public education campaign, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in this regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested, and welcomes the recent outreach work by the territorial Government, including the convening in 2011 of a Chamorro forum;

5. *Further requests* the administering Power to cooperate in establishing programmes for the sustainable development of the economic activities and

enterprises of the Territory, noting the special role of the Chamorro people in the development of Guam;

VII
Montserrat

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Montserrat[31] and other relevant information,

Recalling the statement of the Premier of Montserrat at the Pacific regional seminar, held in Quito from 30 May to 1 June 2012, that the current relationship with the administering Power was one made by free choice and the Territory should be removed from the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Recalling also the statements by the members of the Special Committee present at the Pacific regional seminar and the clarification by the Secretariat regarding United Nations procedures in this regard,

Noting the communication addressed to the Chair of the Special Committee by the opposition leader of Montserrat expressing concern that the Premier had no prior discussion with Montserrat's legislature over the content of his statement before requesting the Special Committee to remove the Territory from the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Noting also the approval of a new Constitution in 2010 and the work of the territorial Government to update the relevant parts of the Territory's legislation so that the Constitution could enter into force in September 2011,

Aware that Montserrat continues to receive budgetary aid from the administering Power for the operation of the territorial Government,

Recalling the statements made by participants at the 2012 Pacific regional seminar encouraging the administering Power to commit sufficient resources to meet the Territory's special needs,

Noting with concern the continuing consequences of the 1995 volcanic eruption, which led to the evacuation of three quarters of the Territory's population to safe areas of the island and to areas outside the Territory, which continues to have enduring consequences for the economy of the island,

Acknowledging the continuing assistance provided to the Territory by States members of the Caribbean Community, in particular Antigua and Barbuda, which has offered safe refuge and access to educational and health facilities, as well as employment for thousands who have left the Territory,

Noting the continuing efforts of the administering Power and the territorial Government to deal with the consequences of the volcanic eruption,

Cognizant of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory, and of the Territory's membership in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council,

[31] A/AC.109/2012/10.

1. *Welcomes* the approval of a new Constitution for the Territory, which entered into force in 2011, and the work of the territorial Government with respect to moving forward to consolidate the gains provided for in the Constitution;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in this regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Welcomes* the accession of the Territory, in 2012, to the Economic Union Treaty of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and its active participation in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

4. *Calls upon* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as regional and other organizations, to continue to provide assistance to the Territory in alleviating the consequences of the volcanic eruption;

VIII
Pitcairn

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Pitcairn[32] and other relevant information,

Taking into account the unique character of Pitcairn in terms of population, area and access,

Aware that the administering Power and the territorial Government have implemented a new governance structure to strengthen administrative capacity in the Territory, based on consultations with the people of the Territory, and that Pitcairn continues to receive budgetary aid from the administering Power for the operation of the territorial Government,

Noting that the administering Power and the Pitcairn Government are currently working on a five-year strategic development plan for the island,

1. *Welcomes* all efforts by the administering Power and the territorial Government that would further devolve operational responsibilities to the Territory, with a view to gradually expanding self-government, including through training of local personnel;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in this regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Also requests* the administering Power to continue its assistance for the improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory and to continue its discussions with the territorial Government on how best to support socioeconomic and environmental security in Pitcairn;

4. *Welcomes* the work carried out on the preparation of a five-year strategic development plan for the island;

[32] A/AC.109/2012/3.

IX
Saint Helena

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Saint Helena[33] and other relevant information,

Recalling the statement of the representative of Saint Helena at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, from 12 to 14 May 2009,

Taking into account the unique character of Saint Helena in terms of its population, geography and natural resources,

Cognizant that Saint Helena continues to receive budgetary aid from the administering Power for the operation of the territorial Government,

Aware of the efforts of the administering Power and the territorial Government to improve the socioeconomic conditions of the population of Saint Helena, in particular in the areas of employment and transport and communications infrastructure,

Noting the efforts of the Territory to address the problem of unemployment on the island and the joint action of the administering Power and the territorial Government in dealing with it, including through the Labour Market Strategy 2012-2014 and the Sustainable Economic Development Plan 2012/13-2021/22,

Noting also the importance of improving the infrastructure and accessibility of Saint Helena, and, in this regard, the administering Power's approval in 2011 of the building of an airport on the island of Saint Helena,

1. *Stresses* the importance of the Territory's 2009 Constitution;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in that regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Requests* the administering Power and relevant international organizations to continue to support the efforts of the territorial Government to address the Territory's socioeconomic development challenges, including unemployment and limited transport and communications infrastructure;

4. *Calls upon* the administering Power to take into account the unique geographical character of Saint Helena while resolving any emerging issues related to the construction of the airport;

X
Turks and Caicos Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the Turks and Caicos Islands[34] and other relevant information,

Recalling the statement of the representative of the Turks and Caicos Islands at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, from 12 to 14 May 2009,

[33] A/AC.109/2012/5.
[34] A/AC.109/2012/9.

Recalling also the dispatch of the United Nations special mission to the Turks and Caicos Islands in 2006, at the request of the territorial Government and with the concurrence of the administering Power,

Aware of the 2002 report of the Constitutional Modernization Review Body, and acknowledging the Constitution agreed between the administering Power and the territorial Government, which entered into force in 2006,

Noting the administering Power's decisions to suspend parts of the 2006 Constitution of the Turks and Caicos Islands, covering the constitutional right to trial by jury, ministerial Government, and the House of Assembly, following the recommendations of an independent Commission of Inquiry and the ruling of the administering Power's Court of Appeal, to present a draft constitution for public consultation in 2011, and to introduce a new constitution for the Territory,

Noting also the continued postponement of elections in the Territory,

Acknowledging the impact that the global economic slowdown and other relevant developments have had on tourism and related real estate development, the mainstays of the Territory's economy,

1. *Notes with grave concern* the ongoing situation in the Turks and Caicos Islands, and notes the efforts of the administering Power to restore good governance, including through the introduction of a new 2011 constitution, the projected holding of elections in November 2012 and sound financial management in the Territory;

2. *Calls for* the restoration of constitutional arrangements providing for representative democracy through an elected territorial Government as soon as possible;

3. *Notes* the positions and repeated calls of the Caribbean Community and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries for the restoration of a democratically elected territorial Government as a matter of urgency, and also notes the view expressed by the administering Power that elections should not be postponed any longer than necessary;

4. *Also notes* the extensive public consultations undertaken by the Constitutional and Electoral Reform Adviser and the continuing debate on constitutional and electoral reform within the Territory, and stresses the importance of participation by all groups and interested parties in the consultation process;

5. *Stresses* the importance of having in place in the Territory a constitution that reflects the aspirations and wishes of the people of the Territory, based on the mechanisms for popular consultation;

6. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in that regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

7. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

8. *Also welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the territorial Government addressing the need for attention to be paid to the enhancement of socioeconomic development across the Territory;

XI
United States Virgin Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the United States Virgin Islands[35] and other relevant information,

Aware that under United States law the relations between the territorial Government and the federal Government in all matters not the programme responsibility of another federal department or agency are under the general administrative supervision of the Secretary of the Interior,[36]

Aware also of the fifth attempt of the Territory to review the existing Revised Organic Act, which organizes its internal governance arrangements, as well as its requests to the administering Power and the United Nations system for assistance to its public education programme,

Cognizant that a draft constitution was proposed in 2009 and subsequently forwarded to the administering Power, which in 2010 requested the Territory to consider its objections to the draft constitution,

Aware of the closing of the Hovensa plant in 2011 and the negative impact on manufacturing and the labour situation in the Territory,

Cognizant of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

1. *Welcomes* the proposal of a draft constitution emanating from the Territory in 2009, as a result of the work of the United States Virgin Islands Fifth Constitutional Convention, for review by the administering Power, and requests the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals, in particular the successful conclusion of the ongoing internal Constitutional Convention exercise;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to facilitate the process for approval of the proposed territorial constitution in the United States Congress and its implementation, once agreed upon in the Territory;

3. *Also requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning a public education programme, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in this regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

4. *Expresses its concern* regarding the negative impact of the Hovensa plant closure;

5. *Reiterates its call* for the inclusion of the Territory in regional programmes of the United Nations Development Programme, consistent with the participation of other Non-Self-Governing Territories;

6. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

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[35] A/AC.109/2012/8.

[36] United States Congress, Revised Organic Act, 1954.

7. *Also welcomes* the holding, for the first time at the level of heads of territorial Government, on 12 May 2011, of the meeting of the Inter-Virgin Islands Council between the Territory and the British Virgin Islands.

Draft resolution VII
Dissemination of information on decolonization

The General Assembly,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the dissemination of information on decolonization and publicity for the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization,[37]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and other resolutions and decisions of the United Nations concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization, in particular General Assembly resolution 66/90 of 9 December 2011,

Recognizing the need for flexible, practical and innovative approaches towards reviewing the options of self-determination for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories with a view to implementing the plan of action for the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[38]

Reiterating the importance of dissemination of information as an instrument for furthering the aims of the Declaration, and mindful of the role of world public opinion in effectively assisting the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to achieve self-determination,

Recognizing the role played by the administering Powers in transmitting information to the Secretary-General in accordance with the terms of Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing also the role of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, through the United Nations information centres, in the dissemination of information at the regional level on the activities of the United Nations,

Recalling the issuance by the Department of Public Information, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee, of an information leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Aware of the role of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization,

1. *Approves* the activities in the field of dissemination of information on decolonization undertaken by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in accordance with the relevant

[37] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/67/23), chap. III.

[38] See resolution 65/119.

resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization, and recalls with satisfaction the publication, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/129 of 14 December 2006, of the information leaflet entitled "What the UN Can Do to Assist Non-Self-Governing Territories", which was updated for the United Nations website on decolonization in May 2009, and encourages continued updating and wide dissemination of the information leaflet;

2. *Considers it important* to continue and expand its efforts to ensure the widest possible dissemination of information on decolonization, with particular emphasis on the options of self-determination available for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, and, to this end, requests the Department of Public Information through the United Nations information centres in the relevant regions to actively engage and seek new and innovative ways to disseminate material to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further enhance the information provided on the United Nations decolonization website and to continue to include the full series of reports of the regional seminars on decolonization, the statements and scholarly papers presented at those seminars and links to the full series of reports of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

4. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to continue its efforts to update web-based information on the assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

5. *Requests* the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Public Information to implement the recommendations of the Special Committee and to continue their efforts to take measures through all the media available, including publications, radio and television, as well as the Internet, to give publicity to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization and, inter alia:

(a) To develop procedures to collect, prepare and disseminate, particularly to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, basic material on the issue of self-determination of the peoples of the Territories;

(b) To seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers in the discharge of the tasks referred to above;

(c) To explore further the idea of a programme of collaboration with the decolonization focal points of territorial Governments, particularly in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, to help to improve the exchange of information;

(d) To encourage the involvement of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(e) To encourage the involvement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(f) To report to the Special Committee on measures taken in the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Requests* all States, including the administering Powers, to accelerate the dissemination of information referred to in paragraph 2 above;

7. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine this question and to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution VIII
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

The General Assembly,

Having examined the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2012,[39]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all its subsequent resolutions concerning the implementation of the Declaration, the most recent of which was resolution 66/91 of 9 December 2011, as well as the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind its resolution 65/119 of 10 December 2010, by which it declared the period 2011-2020 the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and the need to examine ways to ascertain the wishes of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the basis of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization,

Recognizing that the eradication of colonialism has been one of the priorities of the United Nations and continues to be one of its priorities for the decade that began in 2011,

Regretting that measures to eliminate colonialism by 2010, as called for in its resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, have not been successful,

Reiterating its conviction of the need for the eradication of colonialism, as well as racial discrimination and violations of basic human rights,

Noting with satisfaction the continued efforts of the Special Committee in contributing to the effective and complete implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization,

Stressing the importance of the formal participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee,

Noting with satisfaction the cooperation and active participation of certain administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee, and encouraging the others also to do so,

Noting that the Pacific regional seminar was held in Quito from 30 May to 1 June 2012,

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 1514 (XV) and all other resolutions and decisions on decolonization, including its resolution 65/119, by which it declared the period 2011-2020 the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and

[39] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/67/23).

calls upon the administering Powers, in accordance with those resolutions, to take all steps necessary to enable the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories concerned to exercise fully as soon as possible their right to self-determination, including independence;

2. *Reaffirms once again* that the existence of colonialism in any form or manifestation, including economic exploitation, is incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;[40]

3. *Reaffirms its determination* to continue to take all steps necessary to bring about the complete and speedy eradication of colonialism and the faithful observance by all States of the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

4. *Affirms once again its support* for the aspirations of the peoples under colonial rule to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

5. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to develop and finalize, as soon as possible, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

6. *Recalls with satisfaction* the professional, open and transparent conduct of both the February 2006 and the October 2007 referendums to determine the future status of Tokelau, monitored by the United Nations;

7. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out the actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the Second and Third International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and in particular:

(a) To formulate specific proposals to bring about an end to colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

(b) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

(c) To continue to examine the political, economic and social situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to recommend, as appropriate, to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(d) To develop and finalize, as soon as possible and in cooperation with the administering Power and the Territory in question, a constructive programme of

[40] Resolution 217 A (III).

work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(e) To continue to dispatch visiting and special missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(f) To conduct seminars, as appropriate, for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on the work of the Special Committee, and to facilitate participation by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars;

(g) To take all steps necessary to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

(h) To observe annually the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;[41]

8. *Recalls* that the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[42] updated as necessary, represents an important legislative authority for the attainment of self-government by the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and that the case-by-case assessment of the attainment of self-government in each Territory can make an important contribution to this process;

9. *Calls upon* all States, in particular the administering Powers, as well as the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to give effect within their respective spheres of competence to the recommendations of the Special Committee for the implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to ensure that economic and other activities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration do not adversely affect the interests of the peoples but instead promote development, and to assist them in the exercise of their right to self-determination;

11. *Urges* the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable rights of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the relevant administering Power to take all steps necessary to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories;

12. *Urges* all States, directly and through their action in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to provide moral and material assistance, as needed, to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and requests the administering Powers to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economies of those Territories;

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[41] See resolution 54/91.

[42] A/56/61, annex.

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to provide economic, social and other assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to continue to do so, as appropriate, after they exercise their right to self-determination, including independence;

14. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations visiting missions to the Territories are an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, as well as the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants, and calls upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to facilitate visiting missions to the Territories;

15. *Calls upon* all the administering Powers to cooperate fully in the work of the Special Committee and to participate formally in its future sessions;

16. *Approves* the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples covering its work during 2012, including the programme of work envisaged for 2013;[39]

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Committee with the facilities and services required for the implementation of the present resolution, as well as the other resolutions and decisions on decolonization adopted by the General Assembly and the Special Committee.

Annex I

List of documents of the Special Committee in 2012

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
Documents issued in the general series		
A/AC.109/2012/1	Tokelau (working paper)	3 February 2012
A/AC.109/2012/2	Anguilla (working paper)	2 February 2012
A/AC.109/2012/3	Pitcairn (working paper)	3 February 2012
A/AC.109/2012/4	Bermuda (working paper)	9 February 2012
A/AC.109/2012/5	Saint Helena (working paper)	9 February 2012
A/AC.109/2012/6	British Virgin Islands (working paper)	16 February 2012
A/AC.109/2012/7	Cayman Islands (working paper)	16 February 2012
A/AC.109/2012/8	United States Virgin Islands (working paper)	24 February 2012
A/AC.109/2012/9	Turks and Caicos Islands (working paper)	27 February 2012
A/AC.109/2012/10	Montserrat (working paper)	29 February 2012
A/AC.109/2012/11	American Samoa (working paper)	5 March 2012
A/AC.109/2012/12	Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (working paper)	8 March 2012
A/AC.109/2012/13	Guam (working paper)	12 March 2012
A/AC.109/2012/14	Gibraltar (working paper)	13 March 2012
A/AC.109/2012/15	New Caledonia (working paper)	22 March 2012
A/AC.109/2012/16	Western Sahara (working paper)	4 April 2012
A/AC.109/2012/17	Pacific regional seminar on the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: current realities and prospects — guidelines and rules of procedure	11 April 2012
A/AC.109/2012/18	Dissemination of information on Decolonization during the period from April 2011 to March 2012: report of the Secretary-General	22 March 2012
Documents issued in the limited series		
A/AC.109/2012/L.1	Organization of work: relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly: note by the Secretary-General	27 December 2011
A/AC.109/2012/L.2	Organization of work: note by the Chair	27 December 2011

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
A/AC.109/2012/L.3	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	6 June 2012
A/AC.109/2012/L.4	Dissemination of information on decolonization: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	6 June 2012
A/AC.109/2012/L.5	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	6 June 2012
A/AC.109/2012/L.6	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas): draft resolution submitted by Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	29 May 2012
A/AC.109/2012/L.7	Special Committee decision of 21 June 2010 concerning Puerto Rico: draft resolution submitted by Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	14 June 2012
A/AC.109/2012/L.8	Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	14 June 2012
A/AC.109/2012/L.9	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	12 June 2012
A/AC.109/2012/L.10	Implementation of the Declaration of the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	12 June 2012
A/AC.109/2012/L.11	Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	12 June 2012
A/AC.109/2012/L.12	Question of New Caledonia: draft resolution submitted by Fiji and Papua New Guinea	19 June 2012
A/AC.109/2012/L.13	Special Committee decision of 20 June 2011 concerning Puerto Rico: report prepared by the Rapporteur of the Special Committee	19 March 2012

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
A/AC.109/2012/L.14	Report of the Special Committee on decisions concerning organizational matters	19 June 2012
A/AC.109/2012/L.15	Question of Tokelau: draft resolution submitted by Fiji and Papua New Guinea	19 June 2012

Annex II

Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: current realities and prospects, held in Quito from 30 May to 1 June 2012

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 65/119, the General Assembly declared the period 2011-2020 the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and called upon Member States to intensify their efforts to continue to implement the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism[a] and to cooperate with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in updating it as necessary, with a view to using it as the basis for a plan of action for the Third Decade.

2. In its resolution 66/91, the General Assembly approved the programme of work of the Special Committee envisaged for 2012, which included the holding of a seminar in the Pacific region to be organized by the Special Committee and attended by the representatives of all the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

3. The purpose of the seminar was to enable the Special Committee to obtain the views of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, experts, members of civil society and other stakeholders in the process of decolonization who can assist the Special Committee in identifying policy approaches and practical ways that can be pursued in the United Nations decolonization process. The discussions at the seminar would assist the Special Committee in making a realistic analysis and evaluation of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, on a case-by-case basis, as well as the ways in which the United Nations system and the international community at large could enhance programmes of assistance to the Territories.

4. The seminar was also aimed at assessing the current realities and prospects of the decolonization process as well as expected accomplishments of the Special Committee in the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

5. The contributions of the participants would be further considered by the Special Committee at its substantive session to be held in New York in June 2012, with a view to submitting proposals to the General Assembly concerning the fulfilment of the objectives of the Third Decade.

II. Organization of the seminar

6. The seminar was held in Quito from 30 May to 1 June 2012. It held five meetings, in which representatives of States Members of the United Nations, Non Self-Governing Territories, administering Powers and non-governmental organizations as well as experts took part (see appendix II). The seminar was organized in such a way as to encourage an open and frank exchange of views.

[a] A/56/61, annex.

7. The seminar was conducted by Diego Morejón, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations and Chair of the Special Committee, with the participation of the following members of the Committee: Chile, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Indonesia, Nicaragua, Tunisia, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation and Sierra Leone. France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, administering Powers, participated as observers. Representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Costa Rica, Morocco and Spain also participated.

8. At the 1st meeting, on 30 May 2012, Dino Mas (Papua New Guinea) and Victoria Sulimani (Sierra Leone) were appointed Vice-Chairs of the seminar. Jose Antonio Cousiño (Chile) was appointed Rapporteur of the seminar. The Chair established an informal drafting Group and appointed the Rapporteur as its facilitator.

9. The agenda of the seminar was as follows:

1. The role of the Special Committee in facilitating the decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories within the framework of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism:
   (a) Developing innovative approaches and new dynamics;
   (b) Reinforcing constructive involvement between the Committee, the administering Powers and the Non-Self-Governing Territories;
   (c) Forging pragmatic partnerships on a case-by-case basis, leading to the full implementation of the decolonization process.
2. Current realities and prospects: perspectives of the Special Committee, the administering Powers and territorial Governments, as well as the views of experts and civil society:
   (a) In the Pacific region's Non-Self-Governing Territories;
   (b) In the Caribbean region's Non-Self-Governing Territories;
   (c) In other regions' Non-Self-Governing Territories.
3. The role of the United Nations system in providing developmental assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories.
4. Current realities and prospects: recommendations on advancing the decolonization process.

III. Proceedings of the seminar

A. Opening of the seminar

10. On 30 May 2012, Diego Morejón (Ecuador) opened the seminar in his capacity as Chair.

11. At the same meeting, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade and Integration of Ecuador, Ricardo Patiño, addressed the seminar.

12. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the United Nations Secretariat, read out a message from the Secretary-General (see appendix I).

B. Statements and discussion[b]

13. At the 1st meeting, on 30 May, the Chair made a statement. The representatives of Gibraltar, the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),[c] the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente Polisario) and Morocco made statements.

14. At the same meeting, the seminar heard statements by the representatives of American Samoa and Guam and presentations by two experts, Edward Wolfers (Australia) and Edward Alvarez (Guam). The representatives of Nicaragua and Cuba made statements.

15. At the 2nd meeting, on 30 May, the representative of the non-governmental organization, Agence kanak de développement (New Caledonia) made a presentation.

16. At the same meeting, the representatives of Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat made statements. An expert, Wilma Reveron-Collazo (Puerto Rico), and a representative of Gibraltar made statements.

17. At the 3rd meeting, on 31 May, the seminar heard presentations by the expert, Wilma Reveron-Collazo (Puerto Rico), and by the representative of the non-governmental organization Anguilla National Council of Women (Anguilla). The representatives of Sierra Leone, Cuba, Nicaragua and Ecuador made statements. The expert from Puerto Rico and the representative of the non-governmental organization from Anguilla responded to questions posed by the representative of Cuba.

18. At the same meeting, the seminar heard statements by the representatives of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),[c] Gibraltar and the Frente Polisario.

19. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Ecuador, Spain, Morocco, Costa Rica, Algeria, Cuba, Nicaragua and Anguilla. The representatives of Morocco and Algeria made statements in the exercise of the right of reply. The representative of the Frente Polisario made a further statement.

20. At the 4th meeting, on 31 May, the members of the Committee present at the seminar held informal consultations on the draft conclusions and recommendations of the seminar.

21. At its 5th meeting, on 1 June, the seminar held a general exchange of views on advancing the decolonization process, including proposals for the plan of action for the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

[b] All statements and discussion papers of the seminar are available on the United Nations decolonization website, www.un.org/Depts/dpi/decolonization.

[c] A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

C. Closing of the seminar

22. At the 5th meeting, on 1 June, the Rapporteur presented the draft report of the seminar.

23. At the same meeting, the participants adopted by acclamation a draft resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of Ecuador (see appendix III).

24. Also at the same meeting, the Chair made a closing statement.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

25. Members of the Special Committee participating in the seminar recalled the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and the role of the Special Committee to examine the application of the Declaration, to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress in and extent of the implementation of the Declaration, and to report to the General Assembly.

26. Participating members reaffirmed the continuing relevance of the conclusions and recommendations of the previous seminars.

27. In addition, pursuant to rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the seminar (A/AC.109/2012/17, annex), participating members present the conclusions and recommendations set out below to the Special Committee at its substantive session.

A. Analysis and assessment of the decolonization process, including current realities and prospects in the Third Decade

28. As their concluding observations, participating members:

(a) Noted that the period 2011-2020 was proclaimed by the General Assembly as the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Participants assessed the progress achieved, reviewed existing methods of work and garnered renewed momentum with a view to completing the Special Committee's historic task;

(b) Identified a number of issues in the process of decolonization during the Third Decade, including the impact of climate change, especially in Non-Self-Governing Territories, the global economic and financial crisis, the role of regional cooperation, education and public awareness, the role of civil society, the role of women, the empowerment of vulnerable people, and the capacity for full self-governance;

(c) In view of the cross-cutting nature of many of the challenges faced by some Non-Self-Governing Territories in the dynamics of today's interconnected world, underlined that efforts must be made, through the involvement of relevant stakeholders and on a case-by-case basis, for the continued strengthening of administrative capacity, good governance and economic sustainability of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, which would allow the Territories to address the cross-cutting issues in a holistic manner;

(d) Acknowledged that climate change had exposed many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to even greater environmental and economic vulnerability, and that the ongoing global economic and financial crisis had highlighted the importance of the economic sustainability and diversification of the economic base in the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(e) Recognized the important role played by regional organizations and regional arrangements in assisting many Non-Self-Governing Territories in coping with various emerging challenges;

(f) Underlined that education and public awareness, including of the indigenous people, remain crucial elements for decolonization and, in this connection, recalled the responsibility of the administering Powers to ensure that the peoples concerned would be in a position to make an informed decision regarding their Territories' future political status in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions;

(g) Welcomed calls for joint projects for the enhancement of public education about the nature of the constitutional relationship in some Territories involving the United Nations, the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the administering Powers, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(h) Stressed the important role of women in the process of decolonization, including in education, poverty eradication and community empowerment;

(i) Recognized the role of and the need for increased dialogue with the civil society in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(j) Recognized the role of civil society, including the business community and non-governmental organizations, in the development process and in facilitating the achievement of economic sustainability and the well-being of the peoples in the Territories;

(k) Underlined the fact that status-related and/or constitutional review exercises in some of the Non-Self-Governing Territories were delicate processes that should meet certain expectations towards accomplishing their decolonization, on a case-by-case basis and where appropriate, including through informal, working-level communication and dialogue among all concerned;

(l) Reiterated that enhanced interactions and cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers remain crucial to the implementation of the United Nations decolonization mandate and would be beneficial to all stakeholders, including the administering Powers themselves, and in this connection acknowledged the participation of France and the United Kingdom in the seminar;

(m) Recognized also the importance of active engagement from other States Members of the United Nations which are not members of the Special Committee in the work of the Committee, and in that connection welcomed the participation of Algeria, Argentina, Costa Rica, Morocco and Spain in the seminar.

B. Current realities and prospects concerning the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific, including follow-up to the 2011 Caribbean regional seminar

29. As their concluding observations, participating members:

(a) Welcomed the participation in the Pacific regional seminar of the representatives of American Samoa and Guam, and the information they provided, and also welcomed the participation of experts and representatives of civil society organizations, who shared their views on the current realities and prospects of the process of decolonization in the Pacific Territories;

(b) With regard to the current constitutional developments in America Samoa, took note of the information provided to the seminar by the representative of the Government of American Samoa, that while the Territory does not advocate a change in the position to be removed from the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories, American Samoa must continue to progress politically and economically while respecting the concerns of the United States and the United Nations, and the need for a more structured approach to determine the will of the people with a detailed work plan on how best to gauge the people's will on political status;

(c) Took note that, against a backdrop of a decade-long popular preference for integration with the United States, the Territory wished to move forward on political status, local autonomy and self-governance issues, and economic development;

(d) With regard to the situation in Guam noted the statement made by the representative of the Governor that the Territory's colonial status has resulted in a situation where the Chamorro people's survival as a people in its native land is threatened, and the work of the Guam Commission on Decolonization in 2011 was centred on setting a date for the plebiscite on Chamorro self-determination and identifying the resources to fund an education campaign to inform the community of the political status issue;

(e) Welcomed the convening of the Commission on Decolonization in 2011 by the Governor of Guam;

(f) Noted with appreciation the efforts made by the Guam Commission on Decolonization to populate the decolonization registry, as required by the public law, and to enhance ability to expediently register those who are left, as well as the request to help Guam attain the funds or technical assistance necessary to conduct the education campaign;

(g) Expressed concern over the impact of a planned United States military build-up in the Territory on the cultural identity and on the use of land by the indigenous people;

(h) Stressed again the need for continued close monitoring of the situation in the Territory;

(i) Took note of the territorial Government's strong commitment toward Guam's Chamorro people's inalienable right to self-determination and aspiration to

a partnership with the administering Power where all interests are respected and considered;

(j) With regard to New Caledonia, took note of the information provided by the representative of the Agence kanak de développement highlighting the importance of the approaching referenda provided for by the Nouméa Accord, and the need for education in human rights through community-based training programmes enabling people to fully participate in the self-determination consultations.

C. Current realities and prospects concerning the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean, including follow-up to the 2011 Caribbean regional seminar

30. As their concluding observations, participating members:

(a) Welcomed the participation in the seminar of the representatives of Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat and the information they provided to the seminar, as well as the participation of experts and civil society representatives, who shared their views on the process of decolonization in the Caribbean region, in particular on the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Committee on all Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories, and the colonial situation in Puerto Rico;

(b) With regard to Anguilla, took note of certain difficulties and tensions in the relations between the territorial Government and the administering Power, and the deterioration of the Territory's governance arrangements;

(c) Also took note of the statement of the representative of Anguilla that the people of the Territory are concerned that they are being denied the full range of decolonization options, while the territorial Government seeks a comprehensive overhaul of the current Constitution, in particular a serious reduction in the powers of the Governor under a drafting exercise that began in 2011;

(d) Welcomed the participation of the Territory as a member of the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council, co-chairing a working group on relations with the European Union;

(e) With regard to Bermuda, noted the statement of the representative of the Government that the Territory's circumstances with respect to the issue of independence are unique and its dream of independence persists, albeit temporarily deferred, as for the people of Bermuda the pursuit of independence is not a current top priority;

(f) With regard to the British Virgin Islands noted the information furnished by the representative of the British Virgin Islands that the interim position of the Territory was to maintain its current relationship with the administering Power, built on mutual respect and a mature partnership, as the Territory continues to grow and generations of British Virgin Islanders attain higher levels of education;

(g) Welcomed the Territory's membership in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council, where it plays an important role chairing two working groups on small and medium enterprise development and sustainable leadership in the Caribbean;

(h) With regard to Montserrat, took note of the statement of the Premier of Montserrat that the current relationship with the administering Power was one made by free choice and the Territory should be removed from the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories, as well as the statements by members of the Special Committee and the clarification by the Secretariat regarding United Nations procedures in this regard;

(i) Welcomed the Territory's membership in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council, where Montserrat plays an important role chairing the working group on disaster management;

(j) With regard to Puerto Rico, took note of the statement made by the representative of the Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico, building on issues, concerns and tasks identified at the 2011 Caribbean regional seminar, including the need to return to the principles embodied in resolution 1514 (XV), to focus on the real needs of the Territories and the need to educate the people about their options for determining their political status and the consequences of their choices.

D. Current realities and prospects concerning the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the other regions, including follow-up to the 2011 Caribbean regional seminar

31. As their concluding observations, participating members:

(a) With regard to Western Sahara, recalled the mandate of the Special Committee towards self-determination for the people of Western Sahara, and reaffirmed all relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 64/101, and supported Security Council resolutions 1754 (2007), 1783 (2007), 1813 (2008), 1871 (2009), 1920 (2010), 1979 (2011) and 2044 (2012) and the commitment of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy for Western Sahara to finding a solution to the question of Western Sahara in this context. They called on the parties to continue to show political will and work in an atmosphere propitious for dialogue in order to enter into a more intensive and substantive phase of negotiations, thus ensuring implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions and the success of the negotiations. They reiterated the call made at previous regional seminars to the parties to continue such negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General without preconditions and in good faith, taking into account efforts made since 2006 and subsequent developments, with a view to achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, that would provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations;

(b) With regard to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), recalled the relevant General Assembly and Special Committee resolutions and decisions on that question, which encouraged the resumption of negotiations between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom with the aim of finding a lasting solution to the sovereignty dispute, taking into account the interests of the

population of the Islands, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

(c) With regard to the question of Gibraltar, noted that, owing to certain difficulties, there were no meetings of the Forum for Dialogue in 2011.

E. Role of the United Nations system in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories

32. As their concluding observations, participating members:

(a) Encouraged the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, and other organizations of the United Nations system to intensify their engagement with the work of the Special Committee, including participation at the forthcoming regional seminars on decolonization, upon the invitation of the Special Committee;

(b) Supported the role of United Nations regional commissions in enhancing and expanding the involvement of Non-Self-Governing Territories in their activities as associate members, in particular the Caribbean Development Cooperation Committee of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in accordance with their mandates and the relevant United Nations resolutions on decolonization.

F. Suggestions and proposals for the Third Decade

33. As their recommendations, participating members:

(a) Reaffirmed that all peoples have the right to self-determination, and by virtue of that right to freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;

(b) Also reaffirmed that any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

(c) Reconfirmed that the United Nations had a valid ongoing role in the process of decolonization, that the mandate of the Special Committee was a major programme of the Organization, and that United Nations support should be provided until all outstanding decolonization issues and related follow-up matters have been resolved in a satisfactory manner in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions;

(d) Reaffirmed the role of the Special Committee as the primary vehicle for fostering the process of decolonization as well as for monitoring the situation in the Territories;

(e) Underlined the importance for the Special Committee to develop a proactive and focused approach, in fulfilment of the goal of decolonization vis-à-vis the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the United Nations list. The Special

Committee needed to continue to approach each case with an open mind, to build on the available options and to bring about more dynamism in the decolonization process in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions;

(f) In view of the contribution of various regional organizations and regional arrangements to the capacity-building of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, advised that their effective participation in relevant regional organizations and regional arrangements needed to be facilitated, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and through the appropriate mechanisms, along with the strengthening of concrete regional functional cooperation in various areas, such as governance, natural disaster preparedness and community empowerment;

(g) Also in view of the important role of regional organizations and regional arrangements in providing assistance to the relevant Non-Self-Governing Territories in support of the process of decolonization, suggested that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate and the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, strengthen its interactions and collaboration with relevant regional and subregional organizations;

(h) On the issue of public outreach to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on decolonization issues, advised the Special Committee, in collaboration with the Department of Public Information, actively to engage and seek new and innovative ways to promote a public awareness campaign aimed at fostering an understanding among the people of the Territories of the options for self-determination in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions on decolonization, including to complement their ongoing efforts and ensure that the information provided effectively reaches the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(i) On the issue of education, suggested that the relevant territorial Governments and the administering Powers consider incorporating decolonization issues into the school curriculum of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(j) On the status-related and/or constitutional review exercises and the overall process of decolonization, stressed that such processes should be approached on a case-by-case basis and in a way that is respectful of human rights, transparent, accountable, inclusive and participatory, with the involvement of the people concerned, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions on decolonization and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

(k) On the relationship with administering Powers, advised that interactions and cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers should continue to be nurtured and strengthened through various possible platforms and means, including informal, working-level dialogue, and reaffirmed that all administering Powers, particularly those which have not done so, needed to engage effectively with the Special Committee;

(l) In this connection, underlined the crucial importance of enhancing communication and cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers, and urged the Special Committee to explore and seek possible concerted interaction in that regard, in formal and informal settings, with a view to make progress in decolonization during the Third Decade, on a case-by-case basis;

(m) In addition, underlined the crucial importance of enhancing relations between the Special Committee and civil society in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly in the information and education areas in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(n) In view of the valuable contribution of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the seminar, reiterated that the Special Committee, through the proper mechanism and with the assistance of the Secretariat, should continue to work towards full participation of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in future seminars. The administering Powers should facilitate the participation of the elected representatives of the Territories in the seminars in conformity with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations;

(o) Underlined the importance of enhancing relations between the Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly in sharing information about their territories, in this regard took note of the proposal made by a representative of the Non-Self-Governing Territory on the creation of a network among the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(p) In this connection, the Special Committee should continue to retool its methods of work and hone its capacity to conduct the seminars in an innovative manner to ensure a higher degree of United Nations-funded participation of its members in the regional seminars in order to allow the Committee to better hear the views of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions on decolonization;

(q) On the role of the United Nations system in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, stressed that the relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies needed to engage with the work of the Special Committee and strengthen their efforts, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and through the appropriate mechanism, in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories; in that regard, the Special Committee needed to develop ways and means to encourage the participation of those agencies and bodies;

(r) Advised the Special Committee that it needed to develop ways and means through which it could make a better assessment, on a case-by-case basis, of the current stage of decolonization and self-determination in each Non-Self-Governing Territory in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, which could serve as a checklist of the progress achieved and things to be done, and, in that connection, invited the Special Committee to consider the suggestion to develop a specific project proposal such as the holding of an informal, working-level dialogue with the administering Powers;

(s) Reiterated that the Special Committee needed to continue working towards sending visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, with the involvement of the relevant territorial Government and administering Power, on a case-by-case basis, and in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, and, in that regard, noted the interest expressed at the seminar by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in such visiting and special missions;

(t) Reaffirmed that the process of decolonization was incomplete until all the outstanding decolonization issues and related follow-up matters were resolved in a satisfactory manner in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(u) Within the context of calls for a Third Decade, the Special Committee should continue to take stock of current challenges and opportunities for the decolonization process and draw up a pragmatic plan of action for the Third Decade with a view to advancing the decolonization process.

Appendix I

Message of the Secretary-General to the Pacific regional seminar on implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: current realities and prospects

I am pleased to greet the participants in the 2012 Pacific regional seminar on decolonization held in the context of the United Nations Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

I thank the Government and people of Ecuador for hosting this important event.

This seminar is intended to assess current realities and prospects, and explore how the Special Committee can advance the objectives of the United Nations in the area of decolonization.

Sixteen Non-Self-Governing Territories remain to be decolonized.

Dialogue among the Special Committee, the elected representatives of the Territories and the administering Powers is essential for progress.

I invite the Special Committee to promote genuine communication at all levels, formal and informal, in which interlocutors are genuinely listened to and heard, on a case-by-case-basis.

This seminar provides an opportunity towards that end.

I look forward to working with you to accelerate the process of decolonization wherever possible.

Please accept my best wishes for a productive gathering.

Appendix II

List of participants

Members of the Special Committee

Chair	Diego Morejón (Ecuador)[a]
Chile	José Antonio Cousiño
China	Zhang Tao Sun Youyang
Cuba	Oscar León Gonzalez[a]
Ecuador (host country)	Ricardo Patiño Marco Albuja Mauricio Montalvo Monica Martinez Fernando Luque José Eduardo Proaño
Indonesia	Elleonora Tambunan
Nicaragua	Jaime Hermida Castillo[a]
Papua New Guinea	Dino Mas[a]
Russian Federation	Albert Sitnikov[a]
Sierra Leone	Victoria Sulimani[a]
Tunisia	Yadh Bousselmi[a]

States Members of the United Nations

Algeria	Mahieddine Djeffal Idris Latreche
Argentina	Gerardo Diaz Bartolome Daniela Beatriz Jaite
Costa Rica	Gerardo Lizano Vindas Alexis Coto Varela
Morocco	Soumia Bouhamidi Khaddad El Moussaoui
Spain	Alberto de la Calle

Administering Powers

France (observer)	Gilles Pecassou
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (observer)	Malcolm Green

[a] Member of the official delegation of the Special Committee.

Specialized agencies	
United Nations Development Programme	Patricio Jarrin
Non-Self-Governing Territories	
American Samoa	Toetasi Fue Tuiteleleapaga
Anguilla	Josephine Gumbs-Connor
Bermuda	Kim Ninette Wilson Judith Hall-Bean
British Virgin Islands	Delores Christopher
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)[b]	Roger Edwards
Gibraltar	Joseph J. Bossano Ernest Gomez
Guam	Lisa Linda Natividad
Montserrat	Reuben Theodore Meade
Western Sahara	Mohamed Yeslem Beisat Deich
Non-governmental organizations	
Agence Kanak de développement (New Caledonia)	Sarimin Jacques Boengkih
Anguilla National Council of Women (Anguilla)	Lana Connor Hoyoung
Experts	
Edward Alvarez (Guam)	
Wilma Reveron-Collazo (Puerto Rico)	
Edward Paul Wolfers (Australia)	

[b] A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

Appendix III

Resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of Ecuador

The participants in the Pacific regional seminar,

Having met from 30 May to 1 June 2011 in Quito, to assess current realities and prospects of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

Having heard an important statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade and Integration of Ecuador,

Taking note of the important statements by the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Express their profound gratitude to the Government and the people of Ecuador for providing the Special Committee with the necessary facilities for its seminar, for the outstanding contribution they have made to the success of the seminar and, in particular, for the very generous and kind hospitality and the warm and cordial reception accorded to the participants throughout their stay in Ecuador.

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